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CONTENTS

NEWS / OPINION

4 **Letters**
6 **Seven Days** Oakland has a new sheriff.
7 **Eco Watch** A banner year for bikes
8 **Legalization Nation** Congress M.I.A. amid crackdown.
9 **News** Cop identified in Scott Olsen incident?
10 **News** The Greek connection

ARTS / CULTURE

11 **Culture Spy** The perfect job?
13 **Event & Attraction Listings** Robert Krikman at the Image Expo.
15 **Museum & Gallery Listings** *Terrain: Exploring the Language of Landscape* at Berkeley Art Center
17 **Theater & Dance Listings**
18 **Theater Review** *A Doctor in Spite of Himself* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre
19 **Lectures & Literary Listings**
21 **Aquarium Age**

FOOD & DRINK

22 **Dining Review** Amba Falafel.
23 **What the Fork** Rockyard brunch.
24 **Restaurants & Cafes**
26 **Last Call** Becoming Pliny
27 **Food & Wine Listings**

MOVIES

28 **Movie Reviews** Dizzy Heights: Silent Cinema & Life in the Air at the Pacific Film Archive
28 **Movie Listings**
31 **One-Night Stands**

MUSIC

32 **News** Pay to play
34 **News** Download this T-shirt.
36 **CD Reviews** Geographer, Larkin Grimm, and Elephant & Castle
36 **Local Licks** Chrystian Rank, Contino, Colin McDaniel and Drip Apollo
38 **Concert & Club Listings**
41 **DJ & Dance Listings**
45 **Savage Love**

On the Cover *Dana Olsen, owner of CH Good Stock. Photograph by Stephen Lewinstein*

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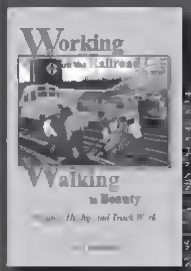
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Navajos, Hózhó, and Track Work

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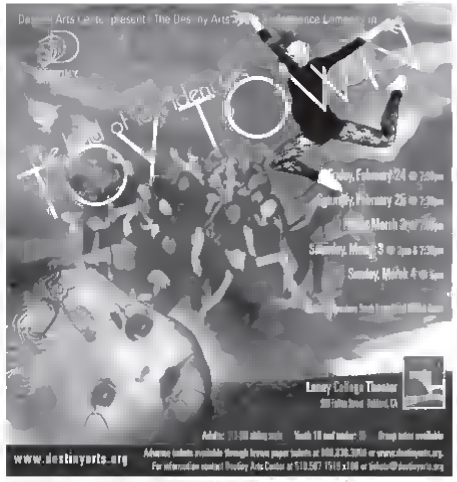
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—William Deverell, author of *Railroad Crossing Californians* and *the Railroad, 1850-1910*

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NEWS & OPINION



LETTERS

An F-ing Disappointment

I was extremely disappointed and disgusted when I saw your latest edition. Of all the many interesting ways you could have covered the subject of sex (I suspect to coincide with Valentine's Day) you chose to go with the most vulgar and crude approach. What was your objective? To discredit and demean your own publication? Your use of the "F" word certainly accomplished that and I'm sure offended many readers like myself, who at least try to find some journalism value in what you are providing. A big "F" to you for failing to maintain even the slightest amount of class.

Martha Bauman, Oakland

Just a Suggestion

Can we get a coffee/pastry/breakfast one at the Alameda dog park on weekend mornings please? I think it is safe to say it would do a fair amount of business between about 8 and 11 a.m.

Mary Eisenhart, Oakland

Stop Blaming the Victim

In this issue the *Express* devoted a few lines to informing its readers that Federal Judge Thelton Henderson had appointed Robert Warshaw to monitor and approve all major Oakland Police Department actions due to "serious concerns about the department's handling of the Occupy protest and its capacity to 'adopt and hold true to the best practices in American policing on its own." (Quotation taken from a similarly dim *New York Times* article on January 26.) This news might be heartening if the judge had appointed a human rights lawyer as the monitor instead of the former police chief of Rochester. The blind leading the blind does not constitute responsible oversight.

What then are the "best practices in American policing"? If the function of police departments is to protect property — and after the events of January 28, when OPD engaged in ever more violent tactics to prevent an unused building from being converted into a social center, no other conclusion holds water — then perhaps these "best practices" are those that ensure this protection with minimum discomfort to the overwhelming majority of people who have little or no property worth protecting. Tellingly, the judge is not intervening because of OPD's inability or unwillingness to protect the hundreds of thousands of people in crime-ravaged neighborhoods throughout Oakland — he is intervening because OPD is failing to even protect that's what they exist to do.

If Judge Henderson appointed a strict constitutionalist as the OPD's monitor, violations against political rights to assembly and free speech might decline. But I think Occupy Oakland is demanding more than the rights citizens are nominally permitted in US society — OO is demanding the human rights of food, shelter, health care, education, and respectable work for all people equally. These are natural rights that have never been part of the social contract between people and government in this country, and so this struggle will continue until people come before property.

That the *Express* continues to equate isolated acts of vandalism with institutionalized and increasingly severe acts of police violence is both saddening and unsurprising. We live in a society where blaming the victim is the escape hatch used to deflect attention from a systemic inability to provide for and protect everyone equally. Given fifteen times as much print space as coverage of Judge Henderson's decision, *Express* journalist John Osborn replied: Sadly, logic [in OO writing: "But what is also troubling is the degree to which Occupy Oakland organizers are both alienating potential 'comrades' from their cause with their not-well-thought-out confrontational tactics and by putting their supporters at risk knowing how police will likely respond to their agitations" ("How I Got Arrested at Occupy Oakland, News 2/1). He might just as well have blamed a young woman for being sexually harassed at a frat party or a Muslim man for suffering a cavity search by airport security or an out queer kid for being ostracized at school. Blaming the survivor/victim for putting her or himself in a position where a stronger party attacks her or him is the basest and most cowardly way to avoid confronting the social norms and institutions that spawned the violence and citing the self-defense that follows as the reason for the initial attack confuses causation in the point of absurdity. Knowing that OPD will respond violently to peaceful protests is not a reason to change course; in fact, institutionalized state violence defended by the media, is at the core of why Occupy exists in the first place.

Owen Andreas, Oakland

The Black (Road)bloc(k)

Thank you for your article. I agree with every word. Back last October and November I was a huge Occupy Oakland supporter. I went down to Oscar Plaza every day to show my support. I Facebooked everyone I knew urging them to support the movement. I was profoundly happy that after so many years of the Left bucking down it was finally showing some spine.

On the notorious night of October 25, I marched in solidarity with Occupy Oakland. I was there when the bank got exploded and I ran with the crowd to get away. As everyone was regrouping, I saw for the first time a young man, masked in black, who began vandalizing stores and cars. It shocked me. I approached him and said, "Please don't hurt my city. I'm marching alongside you. I support you. But please don't break innocent storeowners' windows and property." The young man shoved me and told me to mind my own business. I'm 65 years old.

That was my introduction to the Black Bloc, and I must say that I have now lost all faith in Occupy Oakland. I went to a couple General Assemblies and urged people to renounce the violence. I had a letter published in the *Chronicle* saying the same. I've posted it on my Facebook page, only to be attacked as a fascist. So it was wonderful to see that you have arrived at the same conclusion, that Black Bloc has become a roadblock, and Occupy Oakland should renounce them.

But what can we, the people *specifically* do? I sometimes think that the next time Occupy Oakland announces a move, the rest of us — the true 99 percent — should bring thousands of bodies together to protect whatever the Black Bloc decides to attack, the Port, City Hall, Oakland Airport, whatever. I understand the risks involved for violent confrontation. But the Black Bloc has hijacked what was a beautiful movement, and those of us who care need to band together and take Occupy back.

Steve Heimoff, Oakland

A Starved Supporter

Only rarely so often do I see an idea that causes me to exclaim "holy shit." in the bathroom while reading the newspaper, and as of fifteen minutes ago the Starved column is one of these. I think anything one can do to defeat the fear of creating art is a noble, undervalued and the first column is already executed to that intent. I can hardly wait for the next one.

Mike Ferro, Oakland

Look at the Numbers

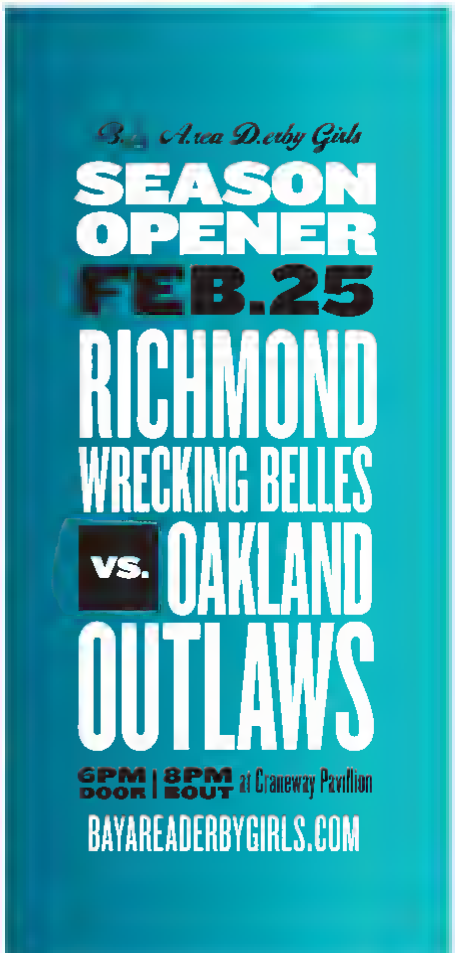
Each American worker on average contributes $104,000 per year due to his or her work. The per-capita Gross Domestic Product is more than $47,000 each year. That means from infant to elder over 110 years old, everyone generates $47,000 per year on average. Average income per worker is about $56,000 per year, yet half of the 150 million workers reporting to the Social Security Administration earn less than $26,363. The inequality of wealth or savings is even worse: Half of US households own less than .25 percent of all wealth. How long will we choose to live in this condition?

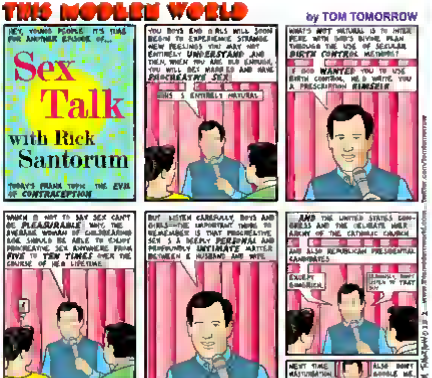
It is articles like this one that make me appreciate the work of professional journalists. Sasha Abramsky is doing great work.

Ben Leet, San Leandro

Letters Policy

Please provide your full name, address and daytime phone number although we will only print your name, city and affiliation. Send to LettersEastBayExpress.com or Letters, East Bay Express, 2200 Bancroft St., Oakland, CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.





OAKLAND HAS A NEW SHERIFF

City Administrator Deanna Santana seems to be a no-nonsense manager as evidenced by her probe of a questionable deal engineered by Desley Brooks.

By Robert Gammon



Oakland, like other cities, is supposed to with have one mayor at a time. But for as long as anyone can remember, it's had as many as eight or nine. The reason is that Oakland City Councilmembers have acted as de facto mayors of their individual districts, directing city staff and resources to their own pet projects. Although such actions are often illegal under Oakland's City Charter, no one has done anything about it. Previous mayors and city administrators have either been disinterested in what councilmembers were doing, or too afraid of what would happen if they tried to stop them. But that appears to finally be changing.

City Administrator Deanna Santana, hired by Mayor Jean Quan last August, seems to be a no-nonsense manager who intends to put a halt to councilmembers acting as if they each have their own fiefdoms. And Santana appears bent on making sure that councilmembers live up to the separation-of-powers form of government that city voters approved in 1998 under Oakland's strong mayor initiative.

Santana's most overt action to date involves Councilwoman Desley Brooks, who has long had a reputation of taking matters into her own hands when city government doesn't act the way she wishes. According to two investigative pieces by *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter Demian Bulwa late last week, Santana has been scrutinizing a questionable program hatched by Brooks in her East Oakland council district. Bulwa also reported that the FBI is investigating as well.

At issue is Brooks' Digital Arts and Culinary Academy, a program for teens housed in an expensively renovated building owned by the city. Brooks appears to have not only engineered a city deal to buy the building for $800,000, but to have pushed for the expenditure of $152,000 in taxpayer funds to refurbish it while using her own council fund to staff it.

Santana has questioned Brooks' actions on numerous fronts. For starters, Santana has noted that councilmembers do not have the authority to open teen centers on their own at taxpayer expense, even if the program is a worthy one. Under city law, if the city wants to open a teen center and staff it with unionized city workers, then that is supposed to be a decision made by the city administrator — provided that the council approves funding for it. Why? Santana noted one of the many problems of having a councilmember hire staffers on her own to deal with kids: making sure that the employees undergo proper background checks needed for working with children.

City law also frowns on what Brooks has done because of the potential for corruption. Separation-of-powers laws are designed in part to prevent councilmembers from using taxpayer money — in this case, funds that are supposed to help each councilmember govern — for favored projects. The reason is to guard against the possibility of politicians directing taxpayer money to cronies or family members — or worse, lining their own pockets.

While there's no evidence to date that Brooks has done any such thing with the teen program, people involved with it appear to have realized that what they did was wrong. For her part, Brooks adamantly defended the program, telling Bulwa that she was trying "to be creative in bringing resources to the community." She also said she used her office funds to pay for staffers at the center apparently because city officials refused to use the general fund.

But Santana and the FBI also have discovered that people involved in the project apparently tried to cover their tracks. City records show that the construction contract on the teen center was never put up for bid, instead after the work was completed by Pulte Homes, city officials collected "bids" on the work in an apparent attempt to make it all seem legitimate.

Nonetheless, Santana is proposing that the city pay Pulte $151,000 for the renovation because the work was done and the workers should be paid. However, her investigation also strongly indicates that she plans to closely scrutinize actions by councilmembers — now and in the future.

The question remains, however, whether councilmembers who are long used to inserting themselves in city business when they shouldn't will attempt to block Santana's efforts — or try to make her life miserable. Brooks, for example, is known for being a hard-nosed politician who doesn't take kindly to being questioned. Will Santana be her match?

Lockyer in Rehab

Alameda County Supervisor Nadia Lockyer said she was entering drug rehab after a bizarre incident in which she says she was assaulted by her ex-boyfriend at a Newark motel. The *Chronicle* reported that Lockyer had brought her ten-year-old son to the motel, too. The ex-boyfriend, Stephen Chikhani, who has been jailed numerous times for methamphetamine abuse, denies that he assaulted Lockyer the *Oakland Tribune* reported.

State Treasurer Bill Lockyer, Nadia Lockyer's husband, said that Nadia had met Chikhani in drug rehab in 2010, and that the two had an affair while he and Nadia were separated. Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, who has close ties to the Lockyers, has turned the case over to the state Attorney General's Office.

Probation Chief Suspended

David Muhammad, Alameda County's probation chief was placed on paid administrative leave last week after one of his female deputies alleged that he sexually harassed and assaulted her last year. The deputy also made a $1.5 million legal claim against the county. Muhammad said the woman is lying and that he will be vindicated.

Charges Dropped Against Prosecutor

The state Attorney General's Office has decided to not re-file criminal rape charges against Contra Costa County prosecutor Michael Gressett. A judge previously threw out the first case against Gressett citing problems with it. In 2008, another prosecutor, Holly Harpham, had claimed that Gressett raped her, but Harpham's story contained numerous contradictions. Gressett, who was reinstated to his job last year by an independent arbitrator who strongly questioned Harpham's credibility, had maintained that he had consensual — albeit, rough — sex with Harpham. ●

Steven Stevens and John Geluardi contributed to this report.

Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510

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New sharrows on Webster Street offer bicyclists an easy route through Uptown Nate Seltenrich

ECO WATCH

A BANNER YEAR FOR BIKES

An innovative bike lane and more than forty miles of new bikeways are in store for Oakland

By Nate Seltenrich

In September 2010, the League of American Bicyclists recognized Oakland as a Bronze-Level Bicycle Friendly Community, along with 140 others across the country. This was all well and good, but not quite good enough. This following January, in an interview with the website Oakland North, Jason Patton, the city's Bicycle and Pedestrian program manager announced that 2011 would be "the biggest year ever for implementing new bikeways in Oakland." Yet 2011 might turn out to be nothing compared to 2012.

"It's gonna be a big year, no matter what," Patton said earlier this month. In fact, over a fifteen-month period extending from late 2011 through next the city should nearly double its existing network of bikeway striping, from 33 miles to 62. That's fourteen years of work matched in a single flurry of activity.

Some of the larger projects included in that jump are 1.9 miles of sharrows (signs painted on the pavement near the middle of the lane that encourage bicyclists and motorists to share the road and direct cyclists where to ride) on Foothill Boulevard; 1.3 miles of bike lanes and sharrows on 16th and Ardley avenues in East Oakland; and 2.7 miles of sharrows on Webster Street and Shafter Avenue between 29th Street and the Berkeley border.

In addition to the 21.2 miles of new bikeway striping planned to go in this year (triple 2011's 7.1 miles), the city will see 21.1 miles of new or upgraded "wayfinding" sign projects (versus only 7.9 in 2011).

Still more miles are anticipated for 2013, perhaps promising redemption when the League of American Bicyclists reveals its ratings in 2014. Among those is Oakland's most innovative bike treatment yet and one of its most hard-won. Since 1999 the city has sought to install bike lanes on 40th Street in North Oakland linking Emeryville, Broadway, and MacArthur BART. Planning began in earnest in 2004, and city staff has been working on it continuously since then, Patton said.

The latest snag was opposition among neighbors to the notion of narrowing the 40th Street median. Between Martin Luther King Jr. Way and Yerba Buena Avenue, residents had adopted the median as their own in the absence of city maintenance. They'd weeded it, landscaped it, and even irrigated it, but the city wanted to scrap it. Otherwise there'd be no room for bike lanes.

Neighbors didn't budge, so last year the city developed an alternative — one it has never tried before, and has yet to formally unveil. The idea is to combine traditional sharrows with a solid strip of green paint five feet wide, like tracing a giant highlighter down the middle of the lane. This design will provide a strong visual reminder for cars to share the road with bicyclists, even if there is no extra room allotted for bikes. If approved, this "super-sharrow" will run in the right hand lane in both directions from Adeline Street to Martin Luther King Jr. Way and then continue on the other side of Telegraph Avenue to Webster Street, where more traditional striping will pick up.

Such a bold approach suits 40th Street because of its relatively high traffic speed, Patton said. Without a clear signal that bicycles are welcome, they're liable to get run off the road by impatient or intolerant motorists — despite their legal right to be there. "There's a lot of pressure on bicyclists to get out of the way," Patton said. "We're trying to find a way to make that legal message strong enough to brew the street looks."

Green paint is approved for use in standard bike lanes in the United States and San Francisco has experimented with it for so-called "bike boxes," which give cyclists space to wait for green lights in front of cars. Yet the green sharrow lane has been implemented only twice in the country to date — once in Long Beach and once in Salt Lake City — and is not yet considered an approved treatment. So in order to protect itself from litigation the city must frame its treatment as a short term experiment. If the paint passes its six-month test, it can stick around. If it doesn't, the city will have to scrape it off and start over.

Patton isn't too worried. "I think it's gonna be a pretty dramatic message that we think will change behavior," he said. And the upside is huge. With 96,000 people living within two miles of MacArthur BART — and with 40th Street in Emeryville poised to serve as bicyclists on-ramp to the western span of the Bay Bridge starting in late 2013 — the new $900,000 connection could become one of Oakland's most valuable bikeways. Plus if the super sharrows work, the city may look to apply them to similarly troublesome stretches throughout the city. Such progress is the stuff of silver gold, and platinum rated bicycling communities.

Granted, taking the experimental route is a bit out of character for Oakland. Lacking the money and staff to dedicate to blowing unproven items (unlike, say, San Francisco or Portland), Oakland prefers the sort of "bread and butter projects" that are often easier faster and cheaper. Patton estimated that in the time the city has spent on less than a mile on 40th Street, it could've installed about fifteen miles of easier lanes. "We kind of reluctantly took this path," he said. "I'm really excited about it, but it's taken us an tremendous amount of time."

All the while, nonprofit Walk Oakland Bike Oakland has backed the city's efforts. Its goal is to see Oakland's 2007 Bicycle Master Plan, which calls for a total of 200 miles of bikeways, fully implemented by 2020. With the anticipated progress of this month's ahead of the city will pass the halfway mark and land somewhere around 123 miles by the end of the year. That leaves 77 miles or an average of nearly 14 per year to reach the organization's goal.

On the horizon is a single massive project that could put a nice dent in that number. AC Transit's Bus Rapid Transit calls for bike lanes along the entirety of Telegraph Avenue and International Boulevard throughout Oakland. Construction is still years away but the impact could be huge.

"That's a real connector," said Jonathan Bair, president of the organization's board. "It's gonna go all the way from Berkeley to San Leandro. That'll provide the sort of connection we've never had before in Oakland."

Together with the East Bay Bicycle Coalition, Walk Oakland Bike Oakland is currently angling to get bike lanes integrated into the Lake Merritt BART Station Area Plan which could serve as the nexus of a web of connections between Eastlake, Laney College Chinatown, and ultimately West Oakland via downtown. Bair said he hopes to see bikeways approved with the project's environmental impact report by early next year.

Given Oakland's climate, landscape and progressive ideals, the result of its potential as a bicycling city — even if it's often outshined and outspent by its neighbor to the west. Oakland is already ranked sixth in the nation in bike commuting by the Alliance of Bicycling and Walking, and, with upcoming improvements, is bound to climb higher. Bair figures. "There's no reason we can't be the top-ranked city in the country." ■

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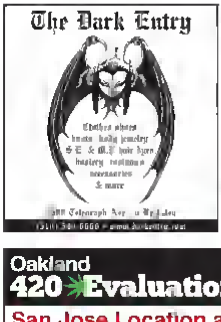
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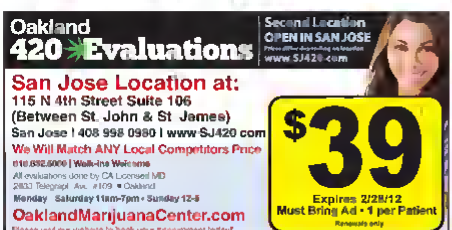
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LEGALIZATION NATION

CONGRESS M.I.A. AMID CRACKDOWN

Caldom a's delegation has been mostly silent as federal prosecutors target medical cannabis dispensaries.

By David Downs

Cal fornia s Congressional delegation represents about 750,000 medical cannabis patients and an industry that generates an estimated $13 billion in retail sales per year. But most of California s representatives have been unsung in action during the four-month-old federal crackdown on permitted and sponsored and their patients.

Since October four US attorneys have threatened landlords with civil forfeiture and closed five permitted dispensaries in San Francisco, as well as hundreds in Sacramento and San Diego counties. Prosecutors have repeatedly threatened local officials across the state, from Oakland to Mendocino to Chico with prison, fines, and forfeiture. Congress response to these unprecedented predations? A single letter.

In Octobur some members of Congress sent a letter to President Obama expressing concern that the federal government was violating its own guidelines in coming after permitted dispensaries. "The actions ... directly interfere with California s 15-year-old medical cannabis law by eliminating safe access for the state s thousands of medical cannabis patients," the letter read.

The letter also asked the administration to reclassify marijuana so that it s no longer considered a serious drug by the federal government or support a bill to do so.

Congress s letter went few, however. Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein — frequent drug war supporters — have no love for medical marijuana. Of the 53 representatives from California in the House of Representatives, the congress were Barbara Lee of Oakland, Pete Stark of Fremont, Lynn Woolsey of Mann, Mike Thompson of Mendocino, Sam Farr of Santa Cruz, Dana Rohrabacher of Huntington Beach, and Bob Filner of San Diego.

The silence from the rest of California s Congressional delegation also flies in the face of popular support among voters for medical pot. Medical cannabis polls above 70 percent statewide, and about 46 percent of voters in 2010 favored legalizing pot outright for adult use via Prop 19. Yet the view from the Hill is bleak, and Filner the only one among the cosigners of letter who agreed to an interview. "People are trying to stay out of it if they can " Filner said.

Filner is running for mayor of San Diego this year, and his platform includes regulating medical marijuana locally. He's running against San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, who has worked with federal agents to eradicate safe access in San Diego. "I think they misread the public on this stuff " Filner said. "There is widespread support for medical marijuana "

Filner said if he s elected he will work to install reasonable regulations in San Diego and "force a more direct conflict on it were, to make the administration rethink its position.

"And I hope to lobby them personally over the next few months to find out what is going on, where this is coming from, and who's doing it."

In a written statement, Lee said she s a longtime supporter of safe and legal access. She co-sponsored a bill by Stark to get the IRS off of Harborside Health Center's back. Lee wrote that she hopes she can "work with the Administration to find a way for these businesses to continue to operate like any other business and to provide patients the medicine that they need."

The three medical marijuana related bills in Congress — HR 1983, 1984, and 1985 — are expected to languish in committee. "It s just that nothing is happening in Congress " Filner said. "The dysfunction is so widespread."

Dale Gieringer director of California NORML, authored a letter this month to House Democratic Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and other members of Congress reporting that the crackdown "has so far resulted in the loss of thousands of tax-paying jobs and tens of millions of dollars in tax revenues." Gieringer said he talked to Pelosi s staff and to staff members of other members of Congress from the Bay Area about the federal crackdown but got nowhere. "They're not going to do anything," he said, "There s no chance of anything happening. [Even though] they re all pretty much appalled by the way the Department of Justice has really patched together a response to this."

The Mendocino County district of Congressman Thompson has endured the DEA overriding and ending the county s model cultivation program. Thompson has worked to "facilitate communication" between the county and the Department of Justice on the issue, his wrote in a statement "The U S. Department of Justice should respect the rights of the state of California. Limited resources should be used to target illegal grows ... not threatening law abiding citizens."

Stark Farr. Woolsey ..and Rohrabacher did not respond to requests for statements or interviews.

One of the problems in the medical cannabis community is that many dispensary operators are unfamiliar with politics. A 2011 poll of dispensary operators that found most had been in business for less than a year. Charles Pappas a City of Berkeley medical cannabis commission member who closed his permitted San Francisco club after federal threats this winter and dispensary operators who have not yet been threatened are acting like "ostriches," even though the goal of the federal government is to close every dispensary in California."

Filner said he is hearing from constituents, but by and large the medical marijuana community is new to this. "They don't know how to lobby, apparently. It s people that have not had to lobby and don't know how to do it "

Others, meanwhile, may circumvent the broken system. Colorado and Washington are considering legalizing adult use via ballot initiative. And throughout California local referendums and initiatives have started to regulate dispensaries by popular vote.

"I think the pendulum are in the 20th century and the people are in the 21st century on this issue," Filner said. "I don't understand the Obama administration —the cautious timidity. It's a humanitarian issue to these voters. It just perplexes me that more people aren't on board and the administration is so negative."

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This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

COP IDENTIFIED IN SCOTT OLSEN INCIDENT?

Video and police records indicate that Oakland Police Officer Robert Roche threw a stun grenade at protesters trying to help the injured Iraq War vet.

By Ali Winston

One of the most indelible images of the Occupy movement to date is that of Marine veteran Scott Olsen being carried away from a skirmish line of riot police at 14th Street and Broadway on October 25 in Oakland. Stunned and bleeding from an ugly gash on his forehead, the 24 year-old Wisconsin native had been struck in the head by an unknown projectile during the first salvo of tear gas, flash bang grenades and less-than lethal munitions fired at hundreds of Occupy Oakland supporters facing off against Oakland police and several other Bay Area law enforcement agencies called in in mutual aid.

Video from the tear gas soaked night of the 25th shows a prone Olsen lying in front of metal barricades and police in riot gear. As several protesters run to Olsen's aid, someone from the cluster of police appears to lob a flash bang grenade into the crowd pulsating around the young veteran. The stun grenade explodes amid a cloud of tear gas and deafening noise, scattering Olsen's rescuers.

The footage of the flash bang grenade exploding practically on top of Olsen and his rescuers as well as dramatic video of a stunned and bloody Olsen being carried away from the intersection, went viral within hours, propelling Occupy Oakland to international attention and setting the stage for the November 2 General Strike.

In the weeks and months afterward, rumors and accusations flew about the identity of the officer who fired the projectile that wounded Olsen and the one who threw the concussion grenade on top of him. Rumors circulated on the Internet that either a San Francisco sheriff's deputy or an officer from the Palo Alto Police Department was responsible. Members of Anonymous even went so far as to publish pictures and the personal information of a San Francisco sheriff's deputy they believe tossed the stun grenade at Olsen.

But an extensive review of video footage and Oakland Police Department records by this reporter indicates that Robert Roche, an acting sergeant in the Oakland Police Department and member of OPD's "Tango Teams," threw the flash-bang at Olsen and his rescuers. It is also not the first time that Roche's actions have come under scrutiny. Police records show that Roche had previously killed three people in the line of duty.

In one clip of footage shot on October 25 by KTVU, the same raccoon-hat-wearing, gas-mask wearing officer in OPD insignia pointing a shotgun at the crowd Olsen's alert body is also visible in front of the banners. Another video clip shows the same officer tossing his



Scott Olsen was seriously injured on October 25

shotgun on the crowd, lowering the firearm as a crowd gathers around Olsen, and stepping back behind a line of San Francisco sheriff's deputies on the barricade line. A grenade is then tossed at Olsen's body as rescuers arrive.

According to former San Francisco Sheriff Mike Hennessey and Sergeant Kara Apple, a Palo Alto Police spokeswoman, officers from neither agency were equipped with less-than lethal shotguns or flash bang grenades that night. A list of OPD crowd-control munitions published by Al Jazeera last year includes the Remington .357 shotgun and two types of CS or pepper spray-loaded blast grenades.

Two stripes and a star, OPD's insignia for acting sergeants are visible on the officer's left sleeve. In both clips the officer is holding his shotgun with his right hand on the trigger. His helmet visor is up and the numbers "35" are visible on his helmet. According to an OPD roster of the three-digit helmet ommbers assigned to individual officers and the personnel detail for October 25, Officer Robert Roche is the only one with a helmet number beginning with "35" who was assigned to a Tango Team that night. Roche's helmet number that night was "357" according to OPD records.

Three attorneys who reviewed the two clips mentioned above concur that the shotgun wielding officer is the same in both clips. "From the positioning of that officer in the line and his weapon, it appears it was likely the same cop who tossed the grenade at the medics trying to help Scott Olsen," said R. Michael Flynn president of the San Francisco Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. Jiro Chanin, one of the two attorneys who have overseen OPD's federal consent decree since 2003, concurred. "His movements and appearance strongly suggest that it's the same officer that threw the grenade," Chanin said. Chanin also observed that the officer's helmet number began with "35."

Rachel Lederman, another NLG-affiliated attorney, also believes the officer is the same and identifiable by the "35" on his helmet. Lederman characterized the officer's actions as "illegal" and "evil." Tossing a flash-bang grenade into a crowd and at a wounded person is "not only improper under [OPD's] crowd control policy — the guy should be fired," Lederman said.

Sergeant Chris Bolton, chief of staff to Police Chief Howard Jordan, said the investigation into the Olsen incident is ongoing. "Any known or alleged uses of force against Mr. Olsen are assigned to an independent investigator," Bolton said in a statement. "Based on available video photographs, and reports, the department has identified several officers that may be subjects of those open investigations." Bolton added, however that "no investigative findings or discipline have been announced or imposed."

Roche is a rifle officer who has also served in gang enforcement units. He has been involved in three fatal shootings during his career. In 2006, he fatally shot seventeen year-old Ronald Brazier after the teenager fired on Roche and two other officers. In 2007, Roche shot and killed an unarmed Jeremiah Dye in a crawlspace under an East Oakland house. Dye had run from police after his cousin shot and wounded an OPD officer during a traffic stop. In March 2008, fifteen year-old Gerardo Buenrostro was shot to death by Roche and two other officers while in possession of a sawed-off rifle on 79th Avenue in East Oakland. Buenrostro's family received a $500,000 wrongful death settlement from the City of Oakland in 2010, even though police claimed that Buenrostro pointed the weapon at them. Buenrostro's family contended that he did not threaten the officers.

Alameda County District Attorney's Office records indicate that Roche was cleared of criminal conduct in both the Brazier and Dye shootings.

"FROM THE POSITIONING OF THAT OFFICER IN THE LINE AND HIS WEAPON, IT APPEARS IT WAS LIKELY THE SAME COP WHO TOSSED THE GRENADE AT THE MEDICS TRYING TO HELP SCOTT OLSEN," FLYNN SAID.

Roche and Sergeant Ronald Holmgren, who supervised Tango Team 2 during the October 25 crowd control actions, were not assigned to the Tango detail on the evening of the November 2 General Strike according to Oakland Police Department records. However Roche was photographed on the street during the January 28 confrontation with Occupy Oakland protesters, shotgun in hand.

OPD's "Tango teams," or tactical teams, have been at the heart of some of the most intense clashes of the Occupy Oakland movement (see "Oakland Used Violent Cops Against Occupy," 12/21/2012.) Aside from the Olsen incident video from the evening of the November 2 General Strike shows an unidentified OPD officer wearing a rucksack emblazoned with "Tango Team" striking US Army veteran Kayvan Sabeghi with a baton. Sabeghi was later hospitalized for a ruptured spleen.

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Demonstrators in Greece have been protesting extreme austerity measures. Wikimedia Commons

NEWS

THE GREEK CONNECTION

California's massive pension fund is indirectly backing attacks on Greece's middle class that could tank Europe and America's economies

By Darwin BondGraham

The California Public Employees Retirement System and its sister funds in other states have changed the way we talk about capital investment, giving rise to notions of benevolent "pension fund capitalism" and socially conscious "shareholder activism." Both terms are based on the assumption that widespread ownership of capital via pension funds has produced a more democratic and humane system in which capital grows for the sake of the masses, precisely because risks and rewards are so widespread.

And yet the entire crisis in Greece proves otherwise. As Europe reels back and forth on the brink of a massive debt crisis centered on the Greek economy, CalPERS's exposure to the crisis reveals a deeply troubling interest in imposing further austerity measures on the Greek middle class in order to secure higher investment returns.

CalPERS's primary role in Greece is through its financial partner Och-Ziff Capital Management Group. CalPERS has invested at least a half billion dollars with the New York-based hedge fund. Och-Ziff is one of a selected group of hedge funds and private equity firms in which CalPERS entrusted large pools of money because these Wall Street insiders promise rates of return far exceeding index averages.

But throughout the Greek debt crisis, Och-Ziff and four other hedge funds with large Greek debt holdings have pressured European politicians to impose harsher terms on the people of Greece in order to guarantee higher repayments on government treasury bonds. Hedge funds like Och-Ziff have also been considering a lawsuit against the Greek government to block write-downs of Greek debt. In other words, CalPERS, a system set up for the benefit of California public employees, has invested interest in backing an attack against public employees in Greece.

And yet CalPERS seems unconcerned. CalPERS spokesman Wayne Davis said Och-Ziff's position on Greece's debt crisis is the hedge fund's business. "As far as our relationship with private equity partners," Davis explained "essentially we delegate to the partner the authority to make the investments under the approach that has been determined by the partner. You would have to call them to discuss their investments in Greece." In other words, CalPERS's policy on hedge funds is hands off — even if that policy harms public employees elsewhere.

In response to half years of storming from their involvement in Europe's debt talks, Och-Ziff recently issued a press statement claiming that it has reduced its exposure to Greek debt securities. The company, however, did not offer specific numbers or documentation proving its assertion.

The Greek people, meanwhile, are facing some of the most severe austerity measures anywhere in the world today, because of bolstering debt on an estimated $260 billion in government bonds held by private banks and hedge funds. Greece's economy has struggled since 2007, making it impossible for the government under its current tax system to raise enough revenues to meet interest payments. Default is a real possibility. EU leaders, particularly France and Germany, are calling on Greek leaders to lay off tens of thousands of government workers, roll back wages by as much as 20 percent and, most ironically, slash public-employee pensions. This is on top of existing austerity measures including tax hikes on working and middle-class families. It's all in order to pay the country's creditors most immediately the IMF and European Central Bank, but ultimately many large private banks and hedge funds that spent the 2000s gobbling up Greek government bonds and other securities. Global finance capital is demanding its pound of flesh.

In addition to its substantial investment in Och-Ziff, CalPERS has a large stake in the debts of other European nations and in currency markets, especially bets on the value of the Euro. In case of a Greek default, Europe's entire economy could sink into a deep depression, bringing the US along with it. Funds like CalPERS, which invest huge sums of money in European corporate equities, European sovereign debt, and currencies, would experience enormous immediate losses. This would be in addition to losses sustained by hedge funds like Och-Ziff and other investment vehicles with very large direct holdings in Greek debt of which CalPERS is a party.

CalPERS's massive investments in San Francisco's Blum Capital Partners provides yet another window into the pension fund's exposure to the Greek crisis. Blum Capital is the private equity firm managed by Richard Blum, husband of US Senator Dianne Feinstein. CalPERS has parked half a billion dollars with Blum specifically to invest in global real estate markets.

CBRE, a global real estate investment company owned principally by Blum, has lost huge sums of money because of its real estate business in Greece and the rest of Europe. According to CalPERS's most recent report, "because [CBRE] derives a large amount of its commercial real estate services revenue from outside of the U.S. CBRE's shares sold off sharply in August and September after concerns about Greece's sovereign debt condition spiked and growth forecast in Europe was slashed.

It's not clear if Blum Capital Partners has muscled in on Greece's debt talks as Och-Ziff and other hedge funds and private equity groups reportedly have. CalPERS however may be reassessing its relationship with Blum Capital because of CBRE's extremely poor performance stemming from exposure to Greece and European real estate markets, according to the fund's third quarter report.

There's still another angle to CalPERS's role in the Greek crisis. According to figures taken from the fund's 2010 Annual Investment Report (the most recent available) CalPERS has invested more than $245 million in Greek corporations. The largest such holdings were with the National Bank of Greece ($67 million) Alpha Bank ($35 million), EFG Eurobank ($27 million) Hellenic Telecommunications ($25 million) and Piraeus Bank ($21 million). CalPERS was exposed to at least 26 other Greek corporations through direct equity investments as of 2010.

Many of the Greek companies CalPERS has a stake in have seen their share values collapse, causing CalPERS to lose at least $153 million as of June 2010 again according to figures compiled from the fund's last available investment report. An analysis of the companies' share prices as of February 2012 reveals even further erosion of values. Whereas in June 2010 shares of the National Bank of Greece were trading at 7.56 €, by February 7, 2012, shares closed at 2.96 €. Shares of EFG Eurobank have lost 74 percent of their value since June 2010. Share values of Alapis Holding, a Greek pharmaceutical manufacturer in which CalPERS had invested more than $6 million, collapsed by 99 percent during the past eighteen months. CalPERS's largest Greek corporate investment, the National Bank of Greece is itself a major holder of the nation's sovereign debt. Much of the National Bank's losses have recently resulted from the company writing down its holdings on Greek government bonds.

Although these investments amount to about one-tenth of one percent of CalPERS's total assets, they serve as a canary in the coal mine. As Greek corporate share values collapse, so do prospects for Europe's entire economy, of which CalPERS is systematically exposed to and dependent on for growth. And it's from the bigger players in the European economy that greater pressure is building to impose harsher terms on the people of Greece. ●

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Benjamin Smythe raised $10,000 through donations for creative him to hold his sign for a year. Adam Grossberg

CULTURE SPY

THE PERFECT JOB?

How a Berkeley man turned a Zen performance art into a legitimate career

By Adam Grossberg

Tim bells at the campanile chime and hundreds of students fill UC Berkeley's Sproul Plaza. In the shadows, Benjamin Smythe quietly sits on a low wall, his legs dangling, wide blue eyes staring ahead, lips wearing a constant almost imperceptible smirk. Every few minutes someone in the crowd looks up, catching a glimpse of Smythe and the cardboard sign resting on his lap. They smile, wave, and continue on their way.

Almost every day, Smythe holds his sign — flattened cardboard, two feet long, one foot tall, ragged edges, two folded vertical creases, green painted background, and two bold, white words stacked on top of each other: "You're Perfect."

Today, Smythe, 25, wears a navy polyester jacket and pants, Adidas sneakers and a black backpack he doesn't take off. He has a closely shaved head and two days' worth of stubble. His eyes seem to take up most of his face, and he licks them, unblinking, on whomever he is talking to.

In the passing crowd, one man stops sets down a bag, pulls a camera out of his pocket, and points it at Smythe. After snapping a few pictures, he approaches cautiously, wearing a wide grin. "What do you mean?" he asks, pointing at the sign.

"What do I mean? I mean that you are perfect," Smythe answers, beaming.

The man introduces himself as "Jin, from China," then pushes forward unsatisfied. "But what is the purpose?"

"To see you," Smythe replies.

Jin blinks, unsure what to ask next.

"There's no real hope just to see what happens," Smythe adds.

"What is your occupation?" Jin says.

"This," Smythe says. "I have a very funny life."

It is a funny life, indeed. Smythe doesn't have a job, a career, a phone, but he does have a website, a YouTube channel and promotional postcards. Throughout today's hour-long sign-holding session, similar interactions play out again and again. Passersby question Smythe's motives, intention, and philosophy. Each time, he answers in oblique, poached mantras that feel both vague and illuminating. "I'm not a crusader. I just love seeing people." "I look at it as fishing for hearts." "I'm like an ice cream man. I provide temporary relief, temporary moments of calm."

Fun Smyth, this stunt as sign-holder serves as his own temporary moment of calm — relief from the constraints of a static, ordinary life. The seed for this funny life was planted in 2005 when Smythe met a homeless man in Santa Monica who told strangers they were perfect. Several years later, during a particularly bad day, the memory of that encounter came flooding back. At the time, he was living in Idyllwild, a small mountain town in Southern California and working in a kitchen — a job he hated. Smythe, inspired by this memory, made his first sign and held it on a street corner for several hours. "I wanted to start a new creative life," he said. "I wanted to find a job that isn't a job. And it worked."

Smythe has worked as an outdoor adventure leader, a yoga instructor and, most recently, as a line cook. He thinks of jobs as "different ways to play." In 2009, Smythe quit his job and handed all of his possessions onto his bike and rode away, abandoning his old life. His is been holding his sign and telling people they are perfect since. "I just thought I'd try this for a while and see what happens," Smythe said.

When he started holding the "You're Perfect" sign, he saw the act "as a way to get over myself and to connect with people." At first, it was terrifying. It felt forced and inauthentic. When asked, he felt compelled to explain his random public affirmation of strangers — his strange Zen performance project. Now, more than two years later, the terror is gone, replaced by a calm playfulness. "It's like lucky sushi," he said. "The sign is an object I play with. Just play. It's not as serious as it seems." If people argue with the sign's message, he calmly responds, "That's perfect, too."

Through hundreds of hours of sign-holding, Smythe has anthropologically divided people's responses into four tidy categories: yes, no, okay, and cool. "Yes" means smiles, waves, and thumbs-ups. "No" — shouted expletives, flying objects — is the most rare. "Okay" — diverted glances, indifferent shrugs — is by far the most frequent. "Cool" means hugs, high-fives and "thank yous!"

What started as a fun gimmick has evolved into much more. "The guy with the sign" has become Smythe, a distinct public persona — in Berkeley online, and abroad. Around the time he quit his kitchen job and started holding the sign full time, he set up his website, BenjaminFSmythe.com, and started uploading videos to YouTube. The videos vary in style — most are webcam-type confessionals with Smythe discussing at length issues of existence, self-identity, and awareness. To date his channel has more than 1,700 subscribers — a community of devoted followers who have helped fuel and fund, Smythe's new life.

Last year he posted a video with an offer: cover all costs and he'll camp live with you for a week. After 24 hours and a flood of responses, he had to take the video down.

Since then he has traveled through out the United States, Europe, and, most recently, New Zealand and Australia, living with strangers, holding his sign and playing his game. In East Berlin he stayed with a poor couple in a one-bedroom apartment — his sign read "Du bist Perfekt." In the coastal resort town of Rimini in northern Italy he roomed with a woman whose mother made him lunch every day — "Sei Perfetto."

He says his host's motivations are always different and often remain a mystery to him. Some people want companionship, spiritual guidance, or just a quirky American guest.

In the coming months, Smythe has scheduled visits to Pressler, Phoenix, Seattle, and Asheville. In ways the past six months have been crazy. "I've been overwhelmed. I'm like a teen couch and we've run out of beans." But Smythe has found a way to live off those beans. Last November with his savings running out, he posted a video asking for donations that would allow him to continue. Then this new creative way of living. He calculated a year's worth of expenses, $28 a day, for rent, food, health insurance, and various bills and set his goal at $10,000. Through many small donations, he reached his goal in just over three weeks.

"My dad always asks, 'What do you do exactly?'" Smythe said. "Then when I tell him he says, 'People pay you for that?'"

Still, Smythe is considering doing something else eventually as his restlessness clashes with the ever-looming practicalities of life. "I wish I was excited about it and saw myself holding the sign forever, because it does work," he said. "But, at some point, I'll need to make a living." ●

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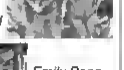
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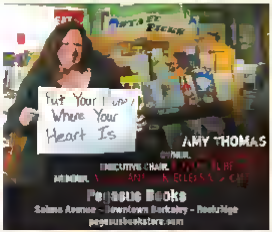
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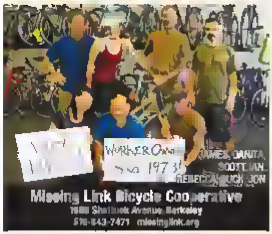
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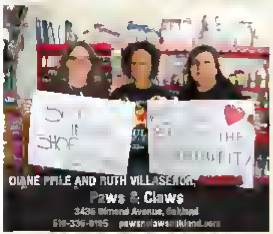
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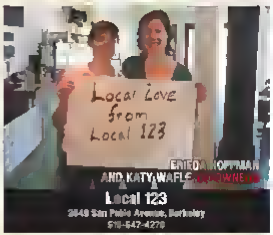
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An Image Twenty Years Strong

The Image Comics Expo celebrates two decades of creator-owned comics

If you're among the millions of people who've re-joyed Robert Kirkman's zombie-themed television show and procuresky comic book series *The Walking Dead*, it might surprise you to know that when Kirkman first illustrator first pitched the idea for the comic to Image Comics back in 2003 the company turned it down. At that point "there had never been a successful zombie comin book before " explained Image publisher Erin Stephenson who said past attempts had flopped simply because they focused too much on the zombies. But Kirkman's concept — a character-driven story about survivors of a zombie apocalypse! — went beyond the mindless, brain-eating shuffle that typically defines the zombie genre, and after a little pushing he ultimately sold the publisher on the idea.



Robert Kirkman Mega...Mark

Stephenson said the comic, and the television show it later spawned, have succeeded for the same reasons as any widely acclaimed character-based series — namely because readers and viewers can relate to the struggles of the main characters. "With *Mad Men*, it's an advertising agency in the Sixties," he said. "In *The Walking Dead* the main character is very similar to Don Draper — except he's facing adversity in a zombie apocalypse." But the series' success reveals more than Kirkman's prowess at penning popular narratives. It also explains how Berkeley- based Image Comics, which took a gamble by working what precedent had painted as a perilous project, has grown to be the third largest publisher of comics and graphic novels in the country — right under DC and Marvel the latter having provided Image a initial spark.

It was 1992 when a group of Marvel Comics best-selling artists — fed up with the lack of creative license and financial returns afforded to them by their work for the corporate comic-book publisher — made the mutinous decision to start Image a publishing company revolutionary for having a creator-owned model that allowed artists ownership of the works they created. It's that creator-owned credo that gave Kirkman the autonomy to adapt *The Walking Dead* to television

"It was really kind of a grand experiment to create a company founded on the idea of creative ownership and creative freedom," said Kirkman who today is one of five partners in the company. "All other entertainment companies take effect in the dark until something catches on. And then they latch onto it and milk it for all it's worth." Jim speaks from experience. While concurrently creating for Image, he spent four years making classic but tired comics for Marvel before throwing down his pen in favor of Image s uncommercial catalog, which includes quirky publications like an illustrated anthology of Welsh and Sebastian stamps.

Kirkman and Stephenson are just two of a dream team of Image partners, founders, and affiliates appearing at the Image Expo a three-day celebration of the company's twenty years, at the Oakland Convention Center (1001 Broadway) on Friday through Sunday. February 24 26 The exhaustive weekend long event includes panel discussions on topics like women in comics Image s conception, and adapting comic books to television plus small artists' workshops led by established illustrators like *Spawn* creator Todd McFarlane and the requisite Q&A and autograph sessions. Guests can also patronize comic-book vendors and pick up special products only available at the expo. "Those are hot items on eBay " Kirkman quipped. "So I recommend people come early and come every day " Fri. 3-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sun. 10 a.m. 5 p.m., $20-$150 510-451-4000 or ImageComicsExpo.com

— Cassie Harwood

ATTRACTIONS

Berkeley Tilt Tilt Architectural Tour With dozen tours of pioneering architect Julia Morgan's Mediterranea- Gothic-style "Little Castle." Sun. Feb 26 1-4 p.m. free, 510-548-1208 LawrenceHallofFame-Foundation.org, Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley 510-848-7800 BerkeleyCityClub.com

Final Fridays Film of Solidarity and Resistance With a screening of *Eyes on the Prize Part II: The Time Has Come* about Mississippi Eg final years. A conversation and Q&A with former SNCC Chair Phil Hutchings and Youth Together's Akua Jackson follows the film. Fri. Feb. 24. 7 p.m., free. Laney College Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-915-0695, EastBayArtsAlliance.com

Malcolm X and the Industrial Struggle With the influence on consciousness, a panel discussion with women industrial artists, a Crumble-type jam, hand-loom Fair of Wine and Breadfruit, and more. Fri. Feb. 24. 6:30-9:30 p.m., $10. The Crucible, 1260 7th St., Oakland. 510-444-0919 TheCrucible.org

Oakland Walking Tour: Black Era/New Politics Discover the places where Oakland's African American leaders, including mayors Maynard and the Dellums family lived their lives. Fri. RSVP 510-238-3234 or AARinfo@oaklandnet.com. Sat. Feb. 26. 10 a.m. free. African American Museum and Library at Oakland, 659 14th St., Oakland, 510-637-0200, OaklandLibrary.org/AAMLO

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

6th Annual Tiki Day in Black History A family-friendly hula-hoop presentation honoring ancestors through music, poetry, history, storytelling, and Tiki-ki-ki-ki. Thu., Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m. Eastside Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-615-5829, EastsideArtsAlliance.com

Lindy Hop Films, Workshops, Lessons With a film screening, hip-hop dance workshops, and open dance contest. $ celebrate Black History Month Saturdays, 3-6 p.m. Continues through Feb. 25. $12 Castillo Cultural Center, 2277 seventh Street Blvd., Oakland. 510-536-0810, EastsideArtsAlliance.com

Temescals Arts Festival A traditional celebration with 8 vendors and Cuban music, Ethnic and song in honor of the people Oakland, Temescal, Sat., Feb. 25. 2 p.m. 510-919, 510-529-1958, BrookeJo.com, Costo de Cubano, 5301 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Cancer Survivorship 101 With an celebration to make cancer treatment and beyond. Call for required RSVP Sat., Feb 25. 10 a.m. noon. Inst. Cancer, Support, Community, 2216 Mcmahon Ave. phone Ernest, 925-933-6197

Health and Spirit: Your Brain Life in 2012 Kathy Bell hosts 4 consecutive meditation gathering with walking meditation and gentle exercise with small experiences. Mon., Feb. 27. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Alameda Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, 1220 Lakeside Oakland.

Making Peace With Your Body Life with Mo Dye. Moore, MA, CPCC, shares tips for calm grounding, stress relief, moving your life forward. Wed. Feb. 29, 6:45-7 p.m. donations accepted, 510-995-8736. Awaken Inside.net, Emeryville Health and Wellness Center, 1240 Powell St., Emeryville

Relax, Oakland, Meditate Some simple meditation practices + Asanas relaxation and more throughout your body and spirit. Mats and provided upon RSVP. Sat., Feb 25. 10 a.m. 12 p.m., $15, 510-626-5414 SaraSonalist.com.

KIDS

20th Annual "ESS" Extravaganza Coloring Contest Alameda students in kindergarten through 5th grade submit artwork and entry forms to the Alameda Recreation and Parks Department (2226 Santa Clara Ave. Alameda) by March 16. Alameda South Shore Center, 523 Shore Street, Central Island, Alameda 510-521-0153, AlamedaSouthShoreCenter.com

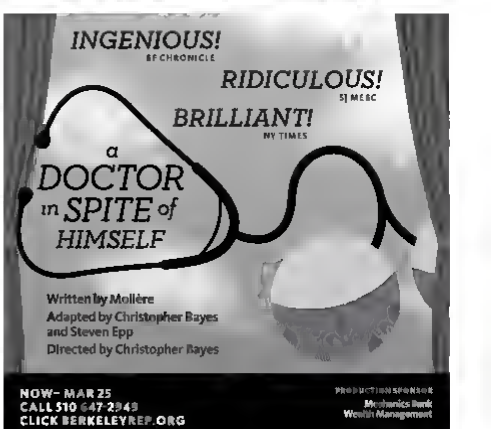
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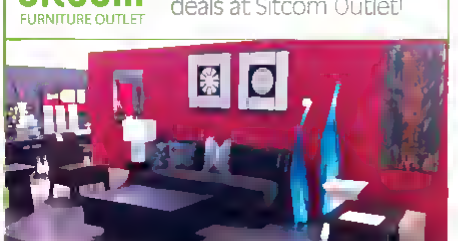


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PICKS

Advance Auto Parts Monster Jam

While some steer clear of monster truck rallies and their raucous, beer-guzzling crowds and exorbitant displays of high-powered car-smashing, others may argue that such qualities are precisely what make the events so epic. The latter crowd is in luck on Saturday, Feb. 25, when Monster Jam, the widely traveled and well-known monster-truck tour, makes a pit stop at the Oracle Coliseum (9000 Coliseum Way, Oakland). This round of the tour features sixteen 10,000-pound trucks, including the legendary Grave Digger, which turns thirty this year. Find out what middle-age looks like for a vehicle that has spent its days bashing into and jumping off of things at ridiculous speeds. 7 p.m., $20.50-$125. 800-745-3000 or MonsterJam.com — *Cassie Hatwood*



National Pancake Day

Everybody loves happy breakfast jams, but more savory options will find themselves in flapjack heaven on Tuesday, Feb. 28. That's when International House of Pancakes celebrates its seventh-annual National Pancake Day during which it doles out complimentary buttermilk cakes for fifteen hours straight. But beyond being just a convenient excuse to stuff your face, the event has an altruistic aim, raising funds for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals through donations made by those who partake in the otherwise free festivities. Money donated to the Emeryville IHOP (4101 San Pablo Ave.) benefits the Children's Miracle Network program at the Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland. Other East Bay locations: El Cerrito, Richmond, Martinez, Pittsburg, Hayward, Union City, Newark, Walnut Creek, Concord, Dublin, and Livermore. 7 a.m.-10 p.m., free. IHOPPancakeDay.com — *C.M.*

Black History Games Barney Nolan tests skills and confidence against challenger Shareen and Kenyan harbinger, Sat., Feb. 25, 1:30 p.m. the East Oakland Community Library, 1021 81st Ave., Oakland.

Bunny Type Fights for Kids Learn basic ribbon feeding and demonstrations, battery cage thinning, health and happiness, games, and problems, a watch out for. Fun kids ages 8 and up. Sat., Feb. 25, 12:30 p.m. $10. House Rabbit Society National Headquarters, 148 Keystone Northwest, 510-970-7575, Rabbit.org/Rabbit-Care/Index.html.

Fun and Profit: The Art of Customer Courage Learn from the positive powers of engaging customers for professional theater and other real world unique settings. Fun and no games. 6 through 8. RSVP required. StudioBeneficial@yahoo.com or 510-647-3064. Sun., Feb. 26, 1-3 p.m., $20. Berkeley Rep School of Theater, 2071 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-647-2973.

Disney on Ice Presents: Toy Story 3 The award-winning Pixar film and the trio with Sam Lightyear, Woody, Buzz and more. Feb. 23-Mar. 1, 7:30 p.m. Fri., Mar. 2 10:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Sat., Mar. 3-4 11 a.m., 3 & 7 p.m. $15-$77. Barons Arena, 7800 Coliseum Way, Oakland, 510-569-2121, Coliseum.com.

Indie Tales and Fables Oakland Bay authors read from their newest story store books in celebration of the Lunar New Year. For ages 3-8. Sat., Feb. 25 2 p.m. Barnes Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-2225, Booklistinc.net/Groups.html.

Comics-Based Storytelling With storytelling and design in arts and Trade Shreese Sat., Feb. 26 12-3 p.m. $30. Museum of California, Oakland. Museum of California, 1000 Oak St. Oakland, 510-238-6400, MuseumOfCA.org.

Prospect Star An audience story and with the stars and directors Sat., Feb. 25, 10:30 a.m., $5-$8. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, 510-843-3941, LaPena.org.

Film Explorers: 10th Mixed-Up Invitational An Arc Café-themed event that explores the personal kingdom of Arc. Free and kid-friendly. Sat., Feb. 25, 10 a.m. & noon, $6-$12. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd. Oakland, 510-638-7373, ChaboSpace.org.

LGBT

Trip the Light Fantastic Beginners are welcome to learn and participate in two-step, East and West Coast swing, funk, Shreese nightclub two-step, waltz, Lindy and soul Wednesday, Aug. 26, 7:30-10 p.m. $10-$20, sliding scale. Oakland Ballroom, 568-430-8829, TripTheLightFantastic.org. **Lusty Dance** Dance Center, 2000 Grand Ave. Oakland, 510-504-2176, LakeMerritDanceCenter.org.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Women Leads and Men Behave: "World Hunger: Our Hunger and Our Hands" The Rev. one the remarks five-star Buddhist Tantra Rebel discuss worldwide projects of communication and how they relate to our lives. Arrive at 5:15 p.m. for art Show of meditation Sun., Feb. 26, 7-9 p.m., free. Berkeley-BUDDHIST Monastery 2304 McKinley Ave. Berkeley, 510-845-3448, BerkeleyAcademy.org.

Introduction to Kadima's Women's Seder Project With a poetry reading by by Bonnie Falk. At the Dharma Diversity School of the Pacifica Eastern Hall (2904 Ridge Rd., Berkeley). Sat. Feb 28 1-4 p.m.

Second Shreese Center Open House Learn from the center's studies and inviting programs. With a talk on being Shreese at 1 p.m. by Dr. Ina Gumbush. Sat., Feb. 26 12-4 p.m. free. Shreese Dharma Center, 2109 Parker St., Oakland, 415-333-4434, SacredShreese.org.

Food and Fellowship Night Intolerant Chutney Kelly gives creative shemaray and Shreese 1+ Feb 24 6:30-8:30 p.m., free. Hippie Grass Cafe 1787-A Oakland, Ave. Berkeley 510-64-3414

Idol Games: "The Secret of Oakland, Iowa Needs Four to Reclaim Women Health, Love, Success, and Happiness using the Law of Attraction" The creative shares tips for achieving your heart's desire Jan. Feb. 26 | 10-3 p.m. free Angel light Books, 3347 Mather Luther King Jr Way Berkeley 510-595-1607 AngelLightBooks.com

Shreese's Garden Center Dina Barnes tells and talk about claiming physical and Shreese. Starts with a centered soul cause, to RSVP 510-517-1907 or InfoOfficeAtGiftShreese.com. Fri., Feb. 24 10 p.m.-12:30 p.m. Jolie's Coffee & Tea Garden, 2201 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-2365, JolieTea.com.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Art Movie Night Has a screening of *Pipeline* a film about Williamsburg/Spirit-making, Pearson and Andre Gutierrez. No young children. Thu., Feb. 23, 8:45 p.m., Free. The Compound Gallery & Studios, 1167 65th St., Oakland, 510-001-1700, TheCompoundGallery.com.

Berkeley Underground Film Society Join the film and for screenings of Movie Super 8 and Tuesday movies and shorts. This week: Safety Last (1923), other on Super 8 with Shreese screen premiere, Sun., Feb. 26, 7 p.m. free. BerkeleyUndergroundFilms.blogspot.com

Burlesque 101 Hosts and Oiled Barrel Learn the fast ins of burlesque. How to Make a personal take through why and more. Presented by Red Hot Burlesque Sun., Feb. 26 5-7 p.m. $30. 510-883-9901 Tease Me Boutique, 1701 University Ave. Berkeley 510-883-9901

Burner Night at Shreese Long Santa games. Shreese Oakland, Sat., Feb. 25, 82 10-05. Instead of the East Bay 2130 Instagram Ave. Berkeley, 510-548-5824, Oakland, Berkeley.org

Groove-Up Game Night With board games, pinball, card games, and other entertainment for adults only. Thu., Feb. 23, 9:30 p.m. $10. PlayandAlready-to-Burner 1619-79 San Pablo Ave. El Cerrito, Playland-Not-at-the-Beach.org.

The Groove Tango Game Party Nil Garcia hosts an Argentinian tango dance session. Sat., Feb. 25 8 p.m. $15-$20. Rhythmic Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave. Alameda, 510-865-5898, Rhythmic.org.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

All/BC Pinball Launch Party Play other AC/DC pinball games on any of the other machines. Play casually, get tips from pros, or compete for World Pinball Player Ranking points. Wed., Feb. 29 8:45 p.m. $5. PinballBayArea.Wordpress.com/Pinball-Experiences. Vibe, 201 Broadway, Oakland 510-452-8889, VibeOakland.com

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

West of the Dragon Celebration With Han Shreese, welcome and other Chinese-Shreese entertainment, as Shreese to begin Noon. Sun. Feb. 26, 12-4 p.m., $1 Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy. Berkeley, 510-559-7300, GoldenGate-Fields.com.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to: Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 5300 65th St., Oakland, CA, 94609. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



Danae Mattes' works are heavily textured.

Earth Pigments

Three painters work the land

The ancient savanna dotted with small trees, unthreatening animals, and winding waterways is the preferred picturesque landscape of Pleistocene hominids, according to Denis Dutton's recent book, *The Art Instinct*, a thesis confirmed by the ideal painting questionnaires of Komar and Melamid. In *Terrain: Exploring the Language of Landscape*, however, Jenny Bloomfield, Christel Dillbohner, and Danae Mattes see the landscape as geology and process, minus familiar fauna and flora. Their paintings in traditional materials — clay and oil ("colored mud," in Philip Guston's words) on wood and canvas — imply that we Cenozoics should adopt a long view, not taking for granted the inborn Pleistocene paradise, Earth to earthlings.

Bloomfield creates her oils on paper, board, and canvas with liquid black or other earth colors — sometimes set against white backgrounds, sometimes against other subdued colors — that are apparently scraped and squeegeed (like the large colorful paintings of Gerhard Richter). They read as abstractions and as landscapes in both senses of the word, topography and view. The shaded furrows, ridges, and veils that Bloomfield evokes in her small- and medium-size works — in her *Donner Pass Road Series*, "Folded Landscape," "Ties," and "Guadalupe Route Meet" — seem monumental and even primal, though not in the 19th-century Romantic sublime sense. The darkened edges, vignetting, and spotting suggest old photographs, or slides, imparting a sense of distance and fragility to what Kenneth Baker termed her "[intimation[s]] of landscape."

Dillbohner and Mattes do sculptural installation as well as paintings, so their 2D work is informed by sensibilities attuned to materials and space. Dillbohner continues to find inspiration in the writing of W. G. Sebald; his poem "After Nature," about the painter Grunewald, the scientist Steller, and himself, all concerned with humanity's place in nature, provides what might be termed the voice-over narration to her richly textured and symbolic oil and wax landscapes. "Nach der Natur" is a colossal simulated blackboard or slate covered with handwriting from Sebald; her "Glacial Sea" paintings evoke the sublime and mystical with somber umber/gray/black palettes — somewhat reminiscent of Anselm Kiefer and Morris Graves, who might plausibly have made Sebald's list of culture heroes. Kiefer's materiality comes to mind also with Mattes' heavily textured works, which might almost be made of cracked, baked mud, though they're clay, paper, and pigment on canvas. "Rain," "A Hundred Roots Silently Drinking," "Alluvial Study," and "River Bed Folding" look like scientific samples that somehow illustrate the processes governing their own making. Well-produced artist booklets with good illustrations are available. *Terrain* runs through April 1 at Berkeley Art Center (1275 Walnut St., Berkeley). 510-644-6893 or BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

— *DeWitt Cheng*

ART GALLERIES

ACCI Gallery: Ancestors With tiles, lanterns, and dolls by Susan Thomas Falk, Vida Mendoza, Meta Galenc, Anne Stewart, Willa Interns, Deb Shaddi, and Susan Taylor. Through Mar. 4. 1652 Mendota Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527. ACCIGallery.com.

Actual Café, exhibitor: Think: Frames Make the World Go 'Round With unusual portraits in various media by Chloe Crossman, Daniel Saks, Sage Radeley, Stephanie Bailey, Ashley Ibanez, and Jeffrey Cheung. Through Mar. 9. 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-653-8384. ActualCafe.com.

Alameda Store: The Art of Living Store Satellite Show With works by Kelvin Curry, Stephen Boyle, Nannette Harris, and others. On display at the Dane Gallery. Starting Feb. 25. Saturdays, Sundays. Continues through Mar. 4. 1900 Mendota Pkwy., Oakland.

Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch: Eyes, Bike and Green: An Art + Photo Exhibition With works themed on labor, health, economic empowerment, land, and ancestry by Chicano Photographic, Corinne Nicole Brewer, Lia Ney, Diaz Holt, Everol Wright, Malenie Rashidi, and more. On display in the catalog lobby. Through Mar. 18. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Build Out Gallery and Shop: Love and Monsterism With new drawings, paintings, installations, and limited edition prints by Joshua Mays. Through Feb. 28. 3864 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-433-5818. Moneypit.com.

Books Inc. Berkeley: Printmonsters With literary-inspired prints by Christina Mendola. Through Feb. 29. 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7777. BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

Café Milano: Berkeley @ the 1960's With photographs taken on and around UC Berkeley, including from "The Seven Days in May," by John Jekabson. Through Feb. 29. 2522 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-644-3100.

CK Gallery: INFLUENCE: Art Can Change the World Exhibition devoted to political art, cultural policy, and progressive thinking, with works by Emory Douglas, the artist behind most of the Black Panther graphics. Through Mar. 3. 4125 Piedmont Ave. 510-379-7753. CKGallery.org.

Dougherty Station Community Library, Marcella Williams With photographs of landscapes and traditional settings in color and black and white. Through Feb. 29. 17017 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon.

Eli's Mile High Club: Berkeley the Dead With a 58-piece punk fine art style drawings and paintings by Clint Tolbert, Sean "Tagalive" McGrath, and Dora Savage. Through Mar. 3. 3629 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. ElisMileHigh.com.

Expressions Gallery: Wonder Shop, More than the Forms With a retrospective of Ilse Bolland, by Helen Berger, including work from her fashion art days and items for her time as an art educator. The Chronicle Plus sculptures by Christoph Schloss, photographs by Charles Lucky, and more. Through Mar. 2. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930. ExpressionsGallery.org.

Farley's East: Art Murmur Walking Tour A downtown Oakland gallery walking tour, led by artist Joshua Margolis. Sat., Feb. 25, 3-4 p.m. 33 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-835-7930. FarleysCoffee.com.

Foolsmoon/FLL: In Form A photography exhibit examining the natural beauty of the body through positive depictions of couples in intimate moments. Through Feb. 29. 1700 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-981-0100.

Firehouse North: Art Show in Memory of Doug Powers With painted drawings by the late artist, plus works by members of the Firehouse Live drawing group, which he attended in his final year of life. Through Feb. 29. 1790 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. FirehouseArtCollective.blogspot.com.

Mondello Gallery: Never Not Enough With new screenprints, preparatory drawings, and a painting by Sonnen, whose exhibition attempts a visual representation of the entire universe. Through Feb. 28. **Show Not Enough** With new screenprints, preparatory drawings, and a painting by Sonnen, whose exhibition attempts a visual representation of the entire universe. Through Feb. 23. 5857 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-923-1524. ThirteenPrinting.com.

Gray Loft Gallery: The Love Show The new gallery's inaugural show features love-themed photographs, paintings, monoprints, and sculptures by 20 artists, through Feb. 28. 2889 Ford St., Oakland. 510-499-3445.

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Director and choreographer Bill T. Jones — whose major honors include a MacArthur "Genius" Award, the Kennedy Center Honor and two Tony Awards including the Broadway hit *FELA!* — returns with this **West Coast premiere**. In this performance of 70 one-minute short stories arranged by chance, Jones creates a landscape of dance, music, and story, reflecting on the relentless passage of time and our memory of it.

András Schiff, *piano*

Wed, Feb 29, 8 pm, Zellerbach Hall

In his only West Coast appearance this season, Hungarian pianist András Schiff performs Beethoven's glorious *Diabelli Variations*, one of the towering compositions for the piano.

Program: Bach: Three-Part Inventions; Bartók: Piano Sonata; Beethoven: *Diabelli Variations*

Part of the Koret Recital Series

Irvin Mayfield & the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra

Sat, March 3, 8 pm, Zellerbach Hall

Classic New Orleans jazz with a Creole heat! At only 33 years old, Irvin Mayfield has over 15 recordings, numerous collaborations and four orchestral commissions, making him one of the most recorded and decorated jazz musicians of his generation. 2010 Grammy Winner for Best Large Jazz Ensemble, the trumpeter, composer and bandleader leads the band in original compositions by Mayfield and big-band scores by Duke Ellington and Count Basie.

An Evening with Garrison Keillor

Wed, March 7, 8 pm, Zellerbach Hall

Best known for his hugely popular radio program *A Prairie Home Companion*, the charming, witty and always entertaining Garrison Keillor will share hilarious anecdotes about growing up in the American Midwest, the people of his beloved Lake Wobegon ("the little town that time forgot and the decades cannot improve") and "life in the fatherhood."

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PICKS

His, Mine, Ours

Da n, Ta s eramus and Iohn Wood s pe ntings are indeed complementary in keeping with the art wri title Ta s Stonewave vessels, wall plaques, and hemispherical "wall buttons" contrast the rough texture and earthen color of the clay with smooth, deep-brown glazes i pplied in organic and geometric patterns using tape and latex resists. The graphically abstracted talking forms of Bird Bean Pot and Balls, the site-specific installation in a closet, a congregation of curved ground i rafts i bucce f nuggets balls, explore the dance of contrasts found in nature with Arp-like grace. Wood s Abstract Expressionist mixed-media pieces exude a similar cool lyri sism, inspired by models, the artist extrapolates and re-pre sents, creating quietly ambiguous but visually rich pict rial spaces. Dark mica fragments of His Body Dreams Will Have Their Way and a series of Valentine-themed drawings in the hallway. Through March 17 ri Oakpoints (447 25th St., Oakland; 510-763-8467; or Oakpoints.org. — DeWitt Cheng



Chuong To s "wall buttons." DeWitt Cheng

Letters from Emptiness

America is about stuff. In quote Georgia Carlin s emptiness seems somet s allen. In other cultures, however, nothing can mean literally everything. Eva Mowens interprets Shunryu Suzuki s no tion of shoshin as "those moments of being jolted awake" when we mindi "Dis mystery of our existence. Her paintings depict crystalline or forked structures, caught between ag gearing and dissolving, floating in deep, dark blue or black space. The opalescent forms, derived from the structures of shells, chrysalises, webs, and jellyfish "i re of in determinate identity and scale. The transparent medium in which they float is equally multivalent, readable as air water blood, the interior of the body or an outer space. Mowman s larger paintings, "Second Messenger" "Seventh Messenger" From Blue #1 and From Blue #2 invite a pathetic identification mi re readily than do the smaller works. *Letters from Emptiness* runs through May 4 at Townsend Center for the Humanities (Gebalie Room 220 Stephens Hall UC Berkeley; 510-643-9870 or TownsendCenter.berkeley.edu — D.C.

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Image: Michael Cutts, Petals, Mixed media on steel, 48" x 48", 2010. Directory 11 East Bay Arts 2011 Cover artist

Webster Gallery, Pro Loves Me, He Loves Me Not A new curated exhibition by Lucinda Cate co-owner Andrea Ali. Through Mar. 13. 1800 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-845-7233, GuerillaCafe.com.

Jerry Garcia Gallery, The (Digital Arts Club) Perspectives: Lovers With pastel art prints by 22 artists working in an array of stylistic traditions. Through Mar. 8. 510-384-5977 digitalartsclub.com 2700 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-2800, ECCArtsCouncil.com.

Steven F. Best Visitor Center, Cheese & Aroma With recent paintings by Judy Cameron. Through Feb. 29. 510-525-3505. Rockland. 510-981-6540. MVC Dig.com.

Joyce Gross Gallery, David Slocum: A Retrospective Exhibition of the artist's intimate drawings, which address "history, memory, and identity." Through Feb. 5. 480 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-8976, JoyceGrossGallery.com.

Julie's Coffee & Tea, Recent Contributions to Gaskins With paintings by Czech Republic-born Silke Lokenga. Through Feb. 29. 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2369, JulieTea.com.

Lowe Kelly Art Wall Wall art by Oakland artist Jennifer Burke founder of the Rising Arising Wallspace in Berkeley. Through Mar. 2. 2043 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-5270. Lowe12 Gallery.com.

Lunaea Wine Cafe, Red Thread Meets A Blank Notary Month exhibition featuring new paintings by Ira Yi Wurst. Through Feb. 29. **Madison Square Park** A Black Hungry Man exhibition with paintings by Lacy Lowe. Through Feb. 29. 1201 9th St., Sac. Boo. Tuesday. 510-447-5622.

Main Street 6 artists, Hybrid Narrative: Visual Meditations on Identity and Personal Self A mixed-show featuring multi-media installations and video work by artists Sally Cleaver, Shona Masters, Jo Pensabene, Jeff and Rhea C. Vargas. Through Feb. 26. 4258 Main St., Oakland. 510-595-3734. MainStreet6Artist.com.

Stones, Gallery, Stone Mason And Love Thyself With collage and sculptures by Maude and work work by Dyptych. Through Feb. 25. 472 25th St., Oakland. 510-763-2325. MuralGallery.com.

Portsmouth Garden, Consumer Mask Mystery With masks created by Crystal Byrd Abu Rahim, Jean Isidola, and Valita Allen as part of PLURR: "Reincarnation, Moving Beyond Stigma" workshop, which aims to promote Richmond. Loves Stones. Health stigma and discrimination. Through Feb. 29. 2025 Broadway, Oakland. Pleasure.com. Gemma.com.

Richmond Art Center: The Prequel, Reinterpreted A small mixed-media group exhibition of works across mediums by California-based artists. Through Mar. 9. **Up, Art of, Using Black: 10th Annual Bay Area Black Artists Exhibition** With works by more than 50 local artists on display in the main gallery. Through Mar. 9. **Rising Tide: A Post-Constituency Tale, Combined** Watch and talk. Richmond-based artist John Wehrle on his work on the Rising Tide mixed-media gallery heard in the South Gallery. Through Mar. 9. **Annotated Museum, The** With watercolor and wood. Public works from James Cayler, jaw-provocation and anecdotal series. Through Mar. 9. 2540 Barrett Ave. Richmond. 510-620-6772. TheRichmondArtCenter.org.

Rockridge Hermit Shop Wall Sculptures With wall sculptures composed of found household objects by Shelley Gardner. Through Feb. 29. 5408 Lowell Ave., Oakland. 510-652-6618.

Royal Rosenfeld Gallery, Spaces, Time, And Architecture With works connected with the definition of space as both an entity, a relationship between entities, and a conceptual framework" by Lisa Alborozo and Cybele Lyle. Through Feb. 28. 4581 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. 415-893-3240, RoyalRosenfeldGallery.com

SLATE contemporary, Water/Bone With paintings by Jane Kuenz and photography by Michelle Hoffert. Through Feb. 25. 473 25th St. Oakland. 510-395-9888, SlateArtExchange.com.

Stella + Stones Gallery, Sea, Volcano Whidbey, and Love With pastel paintings by Sean Dietrich. Through Mar. 7. 815 Broadway, Oakland. 415-828-2092.

Studio Kuhn Gallery, Evolutionary Insight With artists exploring each other's connection to the science of evolution by Renee Adams, G. Craig Hinkins, John Hunt, Mariela Inuzuka, and Sea Toolen. Through Mar. 3. **Stones of Influence** With four works by Rachel Dawson, Sean Fellman, Sarah Holmlund, and Ida Rodkin, who joined the 2009 artists "Gallery A Hundred or Six Stars Visible to the Naked Eye" by some materials. Through Mar. 3. **Lines Indian Stones, Personal Insult** With monoprints by Edgar Heap of Birds. Through Mar. 3. 116 Kreiser Hall, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. **Zoi's Emphasis, multi-media Expression With** drawings, Indian Ridge, hangings, and mixed media by Mildred Thompson. Through Feb. 27. 550 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-208-9174. Mondamo.com

MUSEUMS

Hiith College Art Museum, Stones of Life: The Art of Sonya Kapoor A solo exhibition of Kapoor's paintings, works on paper, interactive installations, and digital works from 1978 to 2012. Through May 11. 5900 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-436-2564. ARCAH.Mills.edu.

Oakland Museum of California, Counterpoint: Ilse Losies and Paiio Tomkinson An ongoing series. Events exploring the mental landscape of the Dot Bay. Through June 17. **Gamelan Bridge Bank Mania,** A video installation featuring interviews with 150 Black men + eleven video scenes the life. The exhibition explores matter of family, love, maternal relationships, community education violence, and more. Through July 8. museum admission.

Ophelia Ile A dramatic mixed media engaged by the graphic designer's childhood memories of Chinese traditional arts and brush paintings created by her mother and grandmother. Through Feb 26. museum Ab ission. **Space-Light-Structure: The Jewelry of Margaret De Patta** a comprehensive examination o he life and art of he pioneering Modernist artist and her influence on jewelry making. Through May 13. Museum admission. **Gallery of Statewide Art** With more than 400 works from the DMCA Artist pool. Through Dec. 2. 1300 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400, OaklandArts.org.

Pacific Pinhole Museum, Yolanda Stones Stones With 15 woodcuts and 20 wedge-heads from Jerry Oakland's exhibition plus games representing early printing from the collections of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hamie. Ron Miller, and Michael Oakland. Daily 5:15 under 17 57 58. 1511 Webster St., Alameda. 510-769-1349, PacificPinhole.org.

USS Stones Museum, Wind Soldiers' Experience Photos and memorabilia telling the story of the male Second-generation Japanese-American troops who fought for the US in WWII. Daily. **Find Avenger** With Webster Webster restored by volunteers. Daily. 707 W. Hornet Ave., Alameda. 510-521-0448. USS-Hornet.org.

THEATER & DANCE

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Same Thing Different Thing See Same Thing New The Ruth Bowman Dance Company celebrates its 30th anniversary with a series of Hopelessly Romantic Valentine's Day Dances. Hosted by Ruth Bowman. Fri Feb 14, 8 p.m., $17-$99. Western Bay Ballroom, 2520 Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-848-4878.

LIVE VARIETY

Burlesque Cabaret and Fusion Pole Princess Spellbound Live burlesque and cabaret theater. Fri Feb 24, 7 p.m., $12. Studio Bash Lower Level, 2788 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1156. StudioBashOverLine.com

Cabaret Tupelo A celebration of classic in song, performed at the piano by songwriter and performer Daniel Castro. Thu., Feb 23, 8 p.m., $15-$35. The Rosen and Center 2179 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291, TheMashup.org

COMEDY

Black at the New Waldo With Paul Mooney. Thu. Feb 29 8 p.m. Wed. Feb 28, 8 & 10 p.m. Sun., Feb 26, 8 & 9 p.m., Through Feb 29. 8 p.m., $30-$60. Black Repertory Theater, 3201 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-652-2120.

Berkeley off Broadway: Bonkimon Comics With Bhanu Lakshmanaraman, Sam Davenport, Kate Townsend, Gail Abbott and Tony Sparks. Hosted by Joe Bledsoe and Samson Kelekian Thu. Feb 28 8 p.m. $10. 510-214-2626, ComedyOffBroadway.com. Also Pearl's Jam Session (at the Pommeroe Hotel), Fine Broadway, at Nash Landon Square, Oakland, 510-444-7171 AlsoPearlsJamPommeroe.com.

Friday Night Comedy Weekly through August by Ashley Stanfield. Fridays, 8 p.m., GoBabyProductions.com. Black Repertory Theater, 3201 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-652-2120.

Godless Erotica With Jena Wilson, Sandra Bender, P.A. Hunter, and Alfred Hitt. Hosted by Joe Bledsoe and Samson Kelekian Sat. Feb. 2, 8 p.m. $10. 510-214-2626, ComedyOffBroadway.com. Also Pearl's Jam House (at the Waterfront Hotel) One Broadway, at Nash Landon Square, Oakland, 510-444-7171. MeetPeopleJamHouse.com.

Say Yemen! Saturday Edition/Shut With Awkward Fest Saturdays 8 p.m., $18 Post Theatre, 2135 Broadway, Oakland, 415-281-1641, yeheartsyes.com.

Silent Cabaret With Tina Allen, Bob Lehrman, and Yuri Kagan. Hosted by Joe Bledsoe and Samson Kelekian Fri., Feb. 24 8 p.m. $12. 510-214-2626, ComedyOffBroadway.com. Also Pearl's Jam House (at the Waterfront Hotel), One Broadway, at Jack London Square, Oakland, 510-444-7171. MeetPeopleJamHouse.com.

Sphinx Productions Presents / Abstract Night Thursdays, 7 p.m. $10. Vhat, 201 Broadway, Oakland, 510-452-1500. VhatOakland.com

Thirty-All Brown Laugh-A-Thon / With Hosted by Mitch K. Lotte Peacock, and Chris Tomeo Music by Dogs in Pyjamas an hour-by-all-girl sketch through music The Fillmore, Tue., Feb. 28, 8:30 p.m. $5. 510-612-4400. Inn Art Bar and Lounge, 19 Castillo Ave., Oakland, BalladeCo.com.

The Untold Story Comedy stories show with Awkward Fest Saturdays, 8 p.m., $10. Post Theatre, 2135 Broadway, Oakland, 415-281-1641. PostTheater.com.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

Barefoot in the Park Thomas Meehan Bonnie Neil Simon a play set in 1963. Hosted by Jen. about two newlyweds and their very eccentric mom. Sundays, 2 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through the 3. $18-$20. Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave. El Cerrito, 510-524-1632. CCCT.org.

Caldera Kansai Shakespeare Theatre, Campbell's programs, Oakland Shakespeare about the importance of the unique cover wellness. Adapted from Candace Taylor's book Courting Trouble, The American Coffee Shop Whatnot. Sundays, 2 p.m., Saturdays, 2 & 8 p.m. Fridays, 8 p.m., Wednesdays, Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Mar 4. $16-$35. StreetFoundations.com/event/23142 Ashby Stage 1904 Ashby Ave. Berkeley. 510-841-6500. StreetFoundations.org.

Climbing the Hands Horton Foote's dark comedy about a family losing hard times during the 1960s at least in Horton, Texas. Thu. Feb. 23 8 p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sat. the 29 7 p.m. Thu. Mar 15 8 p.m. Continues through the 18. $20-$35. Rhoda Mortimer Theatre 2731 N. Third St., Hayward. 925-881-0777. CMTheatre.org.

A cabaret(s) Spite of Himself Christopher Sayer directs contemporary adaptation of Moliere's classic musical. He masters on mass silent. Call or about cabaret. Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m., Thursdays, Saturdays, 8 & 8 p.m., Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Previews, Fridays, 8 p.m. Continues through Mar 8. $16-$40. 973. Berkeley Repertory Theater 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

Don Rosa's The Colossal Hoax! Tron Misadventures of the Electric Pink Blo Read 5 one-man show characters tell misadventures throughout the 1980s. how failed attempts at working as a lifeguard to going to rat race as a beer-swilling at a celebration rocker. Saturdays, 8:30 p.m., Sundays, 7 p.m. Continued through Mar 25. $25-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

A Festival of My Father ...Maddie' Tiddlin' Hill Hawkins W. Kent Tadie's one-man show recalls his adventures search for his absent father. Bill Hawkins, the first Black disc jockey in Cleveland. Dan. Sundays, 2 p.m. Saturdays, 6 p.m. Continues through Mar. 4 $10-$15. Lodi Bay Center for the Performing Arts, 339 11th St., Richmond. 510-234-5624. EastBayCenter.org

Persuasion: Inspirations A Central Ballet production written and directed by Aaron Hinkle, inspired by a story by Edgar Allan Poe. Sundays 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays 8 p.m. Continues through Mar 18. $24-$25. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave. Berkeley. 510-848-7800, BerkeleyCityClub.com.

Shout Your Bathtub Jen Colgan Brown Ken Ludwig's play about the madcap adventures of a group of actors on the in the 1950s. Starting Feb 24. Fridays, 8:30 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Mar 16. $13-$18. Chanticleer Theatre, 2661 Dyer Ave., Cortez Valley. 510-733-5413. Chanticleer.org

The Theater of Romance The Berkeley Playhouse presents a prolific and politically outspoken story, directed by Jen Isley, about a thought-to-believe idiot turned apprentice piano. Starting Feb. 25 Sundays, 12 & 3 p.m., Saturdays, 2 & 7 p.m., Fridays, 7 p.m. Continues through Apr. 1. $12. $30. TheaterSite.com. Jane Morgan Center, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-8454. UnderTheGun.org

Uber Auditorium Hosted Hosted Hosted Hosted William Shakespeare's tragedy about a Hosted go work who upset returning about important for war Hosted Hosted Hosted. It survived the recently deceased emperor Starting Feb. 25 Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Mar. 11 $10-$25. ImpactTheatre.com. Land's Subterranean Theatre, 1304 Santa Ave. Berkeley. 510-464-4468.

Say Yemen! The Land of Lush collection A Wizard of Oz-like journey into the mind of a through-girl struggling with family pressures and the world's woes, featuring the Berkeley Arts Youth Performance Company. Feb. 24-25, 7:30 p.m., Fri., Mar 2, 7:30 p.m., Sat., Mar. 3, 2 & 7:30 p.m., Sun., Mar. 4, 5 p.m., $6-$30. Laney College Theatre, 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-486-7308.

PICK

Body Awareness

Shaping stage dialogue and contemporary themes make Annie Baker's new play a refreshing addition to Aurora's 2012 calendar. *Body Awareness* was incubated through the company's Global Age Project, which promotes forward-thinking work from young playwrights. It's easy to see why the play ultimately earned a professional run. For one thing, it offers a sensuous, albeit humorous treatment of a lesbian relationship — which is progressive even by today's standards — and of Asperger's Syndrome, a disease that's new enough in the pop-culture domain to warrant its own definition in the program. Theater Baker and director Joy Carlin constructed this production to


Jeri Lynn Cohen and Patrick Russell.

Doug Allen

be as fast-paced and riveting as a sitcom: the set design, by Kent Dorsey is endlessly mutable, and many scenes wrap up with a punch line. Best of all is the acting. Amy Resnick plays the mordant feminist psychology professor Phyllis, Jeri Lynn Cohen is her mawkish guileless girlfriend, Patrick Russell is uncomfortably hilarious as the Asperger's-afflicted son, and Howard Swain steals the show as a smarmy traveling artist who comes in and tries to wreck everything. Through March 4 at Aurora Theatre (2081 Addison St., Berkeley). 849-4822 or AuroraTheatre.org. — *Rachel Swarn*

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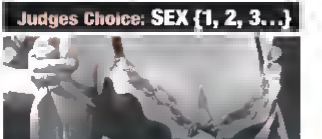
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Audience Choice: HELLA BROWN



Directed by Nanna Feelmore Jolner
Cast: Allah Shadow, AfroBlaze
Crew: Nanna Feelmore Jolner, Casper Rain

EBX Staff Choice: NEUROTICA



Cast & Crew: Jose Munoz, Lana Sena, Bryce Bonar, Ross Tony Sampedro Steven Seeger Danie Estandian Daniel Kennard

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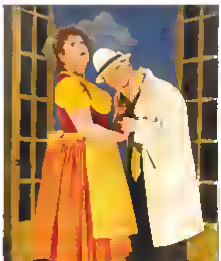
Grand Lake Theatre

THEATER REVIEW

MOLIÈRE IN MODERN MEDICINE

Berkeley Rep takes risks adapting an old playwright and finds the curative power of humor

By Rachel Swan



Kevin Berne.com

The crowd belly-laughed all the way through *Doctor*

It's not clear why a sleepy proposition for Berkeley Rep to tackle the work of 17th-century French playwright Molière. Even if fun plays are required reading for all undergraduate theater majors, they're still four hundred years old and atypical for a company that normally specializes in contemporary material. Moreover, the particular play in question, *Le Médecin malgré lui* (*A Doctor in Spite of Himself*) is an ensemble piece, meaning it calls for a large cast and a lot of choreography. This Rep will occasionally try. Its hand at a robust, overblown production if there's a big name attached (i.e., Green Day or Sarah Ruhl)- this one, conceived by Yale School of Drama teacher (and master clown) Christopher Bayes doesn't quite fit in this mold.

But it's a fabulous play. Bayes, who directed this production and also adapted the script with help from Steven Epp, managed to contemporize the dialogue but preserve a lot of working elements from Commedia dell arte. Thus, it has the guff and pomp of a comedy staged in Lincoln Center, but it's also rife with election year humor, dick jokes, and pop culture references. Some might even criticize the play for being too self-consciously modern (one audience member called it this "deal-trying-to-be-cool" phenomenon), but that's forgivable for a director trying to mollify a progressive audience in Berkeley.

What it raised consternation, from the beginning of *Doctor*, is the sheer number of people involved in the production. The first two to emerge are the musicians, Greg C. Powers (who plays tuba, trombone, and ukulele) and Robertson Witmer (who plays accordion, clarinet, and drums). They are onstage playing their instruments and retreat to a far corner content to be furnishings in the room. Next comes the woodsman Sganarelle (played by Epp) and his saucy wife, Martine (Justine Williams) who appear behind puppet forms then pop out. Punch-and-Judy-style from behind the theater (The puppets, designed by Matt Saunders, look exactly like their human counterparts.) In the original text Sganarelle is an alcoholic layabout in this version, he's aggressive but sprightly, prone to verbal jousting and incredibly quick on the draw. Naturally the whole idea of "wood whacking" isn't lost on either character and so many phallic jokes gush out in the first scene you begin to wonder if the whole play is just going to be one long string of double entendres.

In a way it is. But Bayes and Epp also hew to the original plot and even preserve the political sentiment behind it — which easily applies to modern society too. In *Le Médecin* Sganarelle is mistaken for a doctor and asked to help cure a young aristocratin woman who has lost her voice probably to protest her father's dismissal of her lover. Bayes and Epp's *Doctor* preserves all the themes of the original folk tale: star-crossed love, class conflict, mistaken identity quackery and what writer Peter Brooks would call "the text of maleness." Sganarelle is accosted by two strange men in the woods, persuaded — under duress — of his own charlatan powers, and dragged off to the house of Géronte (Allen Gilmore) father of the lovely silent Lucinde (Renata Friedman). He's smart enough to see that her "illness" is actually a form of civil disobedience.

That seemingly sparse storyline had a strong political cast in Molière's day. He was poking fun at medical conceits related to "the humors" a crutch of the modern day medical system might have similarly disparaging things to say about pharmaceuticals. Yet the adaptors also managed to lard their *Doctor* with modern signposts — including jokes about GOP candidates, reprisals of Sir Mix-a-Lot or Jay-Z, and even a bark about the city of Orinda. The script moves forward at such a ferocious pace that you wonder how even a highly literate audience member would catch all those references. Yet the opening night crowd belly-laughed all the way through *Doctor* which augurs well for the rest of the run.

Molière actually isn't considered a stuffy old playwright — not in the traditional sense, at least — and Berkeley Rep isn't the first local company to revive his work. Central Works did its own contemporized version of *The Misanthrope* in 2008 and 2009 and Shotgun Players tried its hand at *The Miser* in 2004. What each adaptation shows is that the French playwright had the same combination of piquant humor and shrewdness that made Shakespeare indispensable not to mention he trafficked in universal themes. Epp and Bayes perceived these traits easily, their play occasionally devolves into slapstick gags but it's also buoyed by stunningly hilarious actors (Gilmore, in particular, traded dignity for a few cheap laughs.) Risky? Yes but sometimes a little risk can yield a big payoff. ●

Show Details
Through March 25 at Berkeley Repertory Theater (2015 Addison St. Berkeley) 314 80- $73 BerkeleyRep.org

Rachel Swan@EastBayExpress.com

LECTURES & LIT

LECTURES

Berkeley Lab's Summit at the Theater Four eminent scientists talk areas of research, from inquiring inspiring in Antarctica to cutting fruit bats to computations. Mon., Feb. 27. 7-9 p.m., free. Berkeley Rep, 2015 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949 BerkeleyRep.org.

Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings: Pushing Past the Achievement Gap The author and educator discusses how characteristics of research and their flawed and purportedly disparities in educational achievement. Thu., Feb. 23. 4-6 p.m. Oakland High School Auditorium, 1023 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. (510) 879-2040

Eric Klinenberg: "Going Solo: The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone" The New York University professor discusses the extensive research interviews conducted with more than 300 people for his new book about living alone. Fri., Feb. 24. 12:25-1:30 p.m. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-7800. BerkeleyCityClub.com.

Fredric Jameson, "The Antinomies of Singularity" The literary theorist and critic, a William A. Lane Professor in the Program in Literature & Romance Studies at Duke University, leads a follow-up Avenue panel discussion in the Lecture Hall room. Wed., Feb. 29. 12-2 p.m. townsendCenter.Berkeley.edu/antinomies. Wheeler Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

Hemendra Banerjee: "40 Years of Camp Life" With a screening of a documentary about the life at the Dalu squatting, ethnic ethnic group currently residing in Bangladesh.

LITERARY EVERTS

Jacqueline Luckett: Reading from her new novel, Passing Love Thu., Feb. 23. 7 p.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 8129 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-338-8810. GreatGoodPlace.indiebound.com.

The Last Hughes: a GUTTUOU Author Will East Bethpage reads from her book, *My Last Mughar: The Fall of a Dynasty*. Sun., 2857 accompanied by North farmer Rindustard Robert. Veloz South Sat., Feb. 28. 7-9 p.m. 510-843-6000 BrownPaperTickets.com/event/222731. UC Berkeley Rusky Bakhtari, University of California at Berkeley Berkeley. 510-642-6000. Berkeley.edu.

Lyle Ban Presenting his two book books, *Chris 2222: Long, Long Ago, and The Sequel: Still Dominant*, sponsored Sat., Feb. 25, 2-5 p.m. free Lakeside Books at Berkeley. 2066 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2350. AlaskaCenter.com.

Remembering Kingston Reading from her memoir *Those a Broad Mangled My Life*. Thu. Feb. 23. 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-2222. MrsDalloways.com.

Petra Buttering The editor of *Socialist Englishness: The Fiction and Robert of Enslavement* is joined by his book's contributors for a reading. Tue. Feb. 28. 7:30 p.m. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley & Reading. 510 549 1227. PegasusBooksstore.com.

Poetry Flash with Willis Barnstone and Jack Shirley Mess. Sun. Feb. 26, 3 p.m. Sweet & Marvelous 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9966. SweetAndMarvelous.com.

Terry Reading Hemendra Hemendra and Pal Brahman read new works at 3 p.m., followed by a 4:30 p.m. reading and ensemble piece by Hemendra. Participants: Jonell Allred, Karen Zuke Shaw, and Ralph Alfonzi. Sun., Feb. 26. 3 p.m. Rhythm and Art & Artifacts, 1747 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-4291. MarinaFranklin.com.

Richard Hamm Robert Unsegregations and the Ontologization of the American Dream The lecture resident scholar in the Lincy Institute at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, discusses the Hemendra legacy of school desegregation and its implications for educational opportunity, resources, and achievement gaps in the Regional University Dream, room 313. Tue., Feb. 28. 6-7:30 p.m. 510-885-3067. Cal State East Bay, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. 510-885-3000. CSUEastBay.edu.

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PICKS

Adam Levin

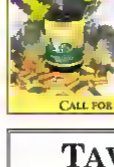
If it's Adam Levin time years to write, his thousand-page debut novel *The Instructions*, but when he finally finished, the youngster was vociferous and vastly rabid. Out of nowhere, Levin popped up on year-end best-of lists, became the object of innumerable critical superlatives, and earned comparisons to David Foster Wallace and Philip Roth. Fortunately for all of us, his follow-up, *Hot Pink*, looks to be equally praiseworthy, though in a different way. It is a short story collection, for one thing, concerned less with novelistic sprawl than with the small scale tragedies and triumphs of "overweight romantics, hapless amidgrins, quixotic dollmakers, Chicagoland thugs, dirty old men, protective fathers, hallucination-manipulators, and wilds that come gels. Levin reads at Moe's Books (2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) on Monday, Feb. 27. 7:30 p.m. free. 510-849-2087 or MoesBooks.com
— *Ellen Cushing*

Ula Taylor

Ula is not just the president's wife, a Harvard- and Princeton-educated legal mind, or the owner of three of the most famed arms on the face of the planet. Michelle Obama is all of those things, of course but she also represents a distinct and important place in African-American women's history: a much-studied object lesson in how far our society has (not) come and how far we still have to go. That's what American Studies Ph.D and UC Berkeley professor Ula Taylor focuses in her recent article "Michelle Obama, Too Black and Too Strong," and it's what she'll talk about at the Africana American Museum and Library at Oakland (659 14th St.) on Saturday, Feb. 25. Consider it your patriotic duty. 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. free. 510-637-0200 or OaklandLibrary.org — *S.C.*

Joshua Mohr and Sam Benjamin

Brad Listi of Beyond Baroque Inc. Alameda (1541 Park St.), Cha A Few Good Men reading series aims to be a celebration of new voices, legacies, and the spirit of the 19,05 literary society." Looks like organizers are off to a great start with the series inaugural matchup, featuring Joshua Mohr and Sam Benjamin reading from their respective recent releases on Saturday, Feb. 25. Mohr's *Damascus* is a dark, finely wrought novella about a heartbreakingly human cast of San Francisco hustlers, while Benjamin's memoir *American Gamboong, A Love Story* (native


Sam Benjamin

the author's transformation from boy League to porn-industry titan. Both present a healthy funny look at the ways we get by and should be a joy heard together 7 p.m. free. 510-548-0688 or BeyondBaroque.net — *S.C.*

I'm with Cupid 2

Ignore the fact that Valentine's Day was over a week ago and just get there to St Alban Episcopal Church (1500 Washington Ave., Albany) on Sunday, Feb. 26, for the second-annual I'm with Cupid. Last year it event was a heartfelt, hilarious tribute to old-school girl groups. This year's show — part of Pegasus Books poetry alternate 31 event series First Person Singular and a benefit for the tutoring program WriterCoach Connection — promises to be an equally good time, with a theme of "new wave pleasures and post-punk paranoia." 8 p.m., $10 donation. 1stPersonSingular.com — *S.C.*

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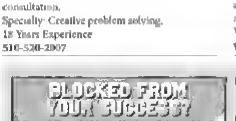
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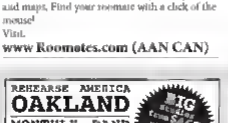
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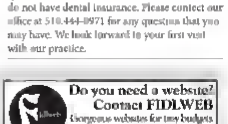
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SIGN HERE

For the week of February 22-28, 2012.

By Raffee Finn

Signs are everywhere this week, and they aren't all astrological. A wide range of rich symbols are likely to materialize out of the blue in all sorts of settings, and because their presence feels synchronistic, it would be hard not to think of them as messages from a living and sentient Universe. Pay attention to who or what crosses your path. And don't worry about missing the signals they are plentiful. From red tailed hawks in the park to baby lizards in the desert to a song that seems to be playing everywhere. The only work involved is figuring out what these messages might mean. If you need assistance, get your multidimensional beanie out of the closet, dust off the special antennae used for ET communiqués, and set your dials on receive. (Those of you new to this technique simply imagine your favorite hat and a set of TV ears on top and you're good to go.) Just be aware: You'll need a strong set of filters. Intense emotions are part of the package which might make it hard to discern the difference between what you're feeling and what others may actually be transmitting.

The source of this heightened awareness continues to be a conjunction of planets in Pisces. Part of the ongoing Sun/Neptune conjunction is still transforming empathy into psychic intuition. This conjunctive trend is manifest as super-receptivity, another reason why good filters are a must. Pisces is the Sign of melting boundaries and when that urge to merge is amplified by Neptune its Ruling Planet, the capacity to be at one with another person is breathtaking. And that goes for the potential to get lost in attentional merging as well. Under this influence it's possible to be so susceptible to suggestion that you take on the prevailing mood of those around you, without even noticing that you've lost your center.

Mercury is also in Pisces and because Mercury symbolizes the mind and all its activities, its presence in Pisces is sure to be felt as intensified and inspired imagination. Allow yourself to dream and don't be afraid to dream big. The only problem with Mercury's position is that it opposes Mars retrograde in Virgo, an interaction that could lead to a restless nervousness that manifests itself as an argumentative attitude. This opposition lasts until Sunday, so do your best to avoid quarreling just for the sake of it.

As you attempt to receive and make sense of the signs this week, be careful not to get caught in Neptune's illusions or delusions, which could feel real but might only be familiar unconscious projections. Instead allow the psychic sway to facilitate a deep spiritual conversation — a dialogue with the invisible realms that enlivens your ability to see a different and perhaps more transformative perspective.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that too.

ARIES It can be argued that communication lines with the invisible are always open, but rarely is there enough mental clarity to hear the answers to your questions above the bubbub of daily life. This week the connection is direct. Listen closely.

TAURUS Neptune opens up a wide range of choices related to how you can share your gifts within your community. Assess what it is you have to contribute that is unique and then trust your intuition about how to demonstrate your intention.

GEMINI Flip emphasis is on how you want to be recognized, and it doesn't matter whether your concerns are about personal or professional image. What matters is how you can identify your best talents and use them wisely.

CANCER Yes, you are experiencing a deep sense of existential longing, and it is hard to find your place in a world that not only seems to be changing daily, but also requires you to make similar shifts. Keep breathing: eventually you'll find solid ground.

LEO Neptune is opening up deep channels of change and while these currents are profound, they can also be overwhelming. Rather than resist, surrender to the pull and allow yourself to be moved into a deeper level of self awareness.

VIRGO You don't have to lose yourself to make any situation you're facing work. Just adopt to such circumstances by drawing upon your innate ability to shape-shift. This isn't glamorized codependence it's a valuable skill.

LIBRA The focus is still on work and what choices will bring you the greatest creative pleasure. From a transformational perspective, even if you're stuck in a job you can't stand, there are always positive ways to shift your circumstances.

SCORPIO Neptune inspires self-expression, including urges toward poetry, jazz, and other endeavors that melt the edges of fixed expression. Give yourself permission to explore your creativity and you'll feel renewed by the effort.

SAGITTARIUS There's no reason to feel self-conscious about the need to make like a turtle and hide under your shell. Even with the strongest armor, permeability is possible. Protect yourself by giving yourself permission to stay low and be quiet.

CAPRICORN Neptune stirs all things related to communication and it is going to take practice as well as patience to make sure you're understood. So take a deep breath and simply get used to repeating yourself.

AQUARIUS In addition to the ongoing challenge to be clear about finances, Neptune is also inviting you to assess what matters most to you. Examine your values honestly, and you'll be able to better trust your choices.

PISCES Even though you're used to complicated intuitive stuff becoming overwhelmed is still a distinct possibility. Rather than think you have to solve every problem immediately take a deep breath and trust your intuition to identify your priorities. ●

For More Info

Raffee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-9284 write PO Box 343 New York, NY 10025 visit AquariumAge.com or e-mail Raffee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2012 by Raffee Finn

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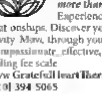
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FOOD & DRINK



Amba makes a strong hummus, which you can get topped with mushrooms. Chris Duffey

WHERE KOSHER MEETS FAST-FOOD

Amba Falafel in Montclair aims to be a Jewish community hub as well as the first Israeli street food chain

Hirsch

Pictures of various photos on the website for Montclair's Amba Falafel. It's a panoramic shot, capturing the crowded dining area of what is clearly a fast food joint. The walls are bright orange, the lights are glaring fluorescents, and the soda cooler and menu board display prominent Amba branding. But in the middle of the crowd, right next to the self-serve utensils and condiments, is an Orthodox Jewish man playing guitar, dressed in black with a full beard and fedora. Nearby, men in yarmulkes nap along.

Such is the dual nature of Amba Falafel. On one hand, it's something of a community center, a thriving hub for the East Bay's Jewish population. But it's also the first blush of owner Jonathan Wernick's plans to create a nationwide chain of franchise restaurants. "You've got P.F. Chang's, you've got Chipotle, but nothing for Israeli street food," said Wernick.

Enter Amba, with extra value meals, photogenic cups for drinks, and a lemon slice logo that's primed for billboards and fridge magnets. But unlike other fast food joints, this one gets near-weekly kosher inspections, it has a ritual hand washing station outside the bathroom (replete with yarmulkes and prayer books), and it closes Friday evenings and all day Saturday, in strict observance of the Sabbath.

It's a strange dichotomy, between this boldly commercial and the reverential. In interviews with Jewish publications, Wernick has stressed Amba's community-building aspects, bringing together rabbis and Orthodox Jews from around the Bay. But with insider food blogs, he's talked about his ambitions to create America's next Chipotle. Somewhere between these two worlds lies the falafel.

Amba's chow is based on Wernick's many visits to Israel and New York, fine-tuned by two chef graduates from the Jerusalem Culinary Institute. "Things I could you would eat while leaning on a street corner in Tel Aviv with a beer in your hand," he said, "except clean and fresh." It's a smart play, conjuring the romance of faraway street food, but sanitizing it for the risk averse Western palate. Certainly, this immaculate, brightly lit Montclair eatery, brimming with kids in soccer gear and older Jewish gentry, is far from the street.

Amba Falafel
5464 Miranda Ave., Oakland
510-333-8000, AmbaFalafel.com
Hours: Sun.-Thurs. 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri. 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Reservations not accepted
Cash, all major credit cards

Sample Menu

Falafel Sandwich	$6.50
Sabich Sandwich	$6.50
Hummus Bowl	$6.50
Three Falafel Balls	$2
Cheese Pizza	$10

Amba's main event is its falafel sandwich. The chickpea ball foundation is traditional and well executed — freshly fried, good exterior crunch, not too dry, just a little garlicky. Its oily pita pocket exterior is balked out with a lightly dressed cabbage slaw, diced tomato and cucumber (aka Israeli salad) and loads of hummus and tahini. Thin pita walls are no match for so much moisture but luckily I was seated at a table. On the street, I would've had to fork my sandwich off the sidewalk.

Less common but truer to its Israeli roots (you wouldn't find hummus in a Middle Eastern falafel sandwich) is Amba's *sabich* a fried eggplant sandwich. It has similar fixings to the falafel, with the addition of boiled egg halves and the subtraction of hummus. Upside: The hot, oily eggplant flesh is delicious, and the lack of hummus makes this sandwich durable. Downside: All the components are compartmentalized, so I'd get one bite of oily egg, then slaw, then tomato and cuke.

Amba makes a strong hummus, fluffy and light, with a spritz of lemon and a touch of garlic. Hummus bowls are served a little warm, topped with olive oil and paprika, as well as warm fava beans, fried eggplant, or fried mushrooms and onions. With warm pita on the side, this one is better for sharing than downing solo.

Another share plate, the $20 mezze platter, highlights Amba's inconsistent pricing. You get many different items on one plate (falafel balls, dolmas, baba ghanoush, beet salad, etc.), but the portions are small and mashed together. Also overpriced are the $10 *shakshuka*: two poached eggs in tomato sauce, and the $8 rasanarella *tostim*, essentially a grilled cheese pita. When you can get a gut busting falafel sandwich for only $6.50, the prices don't add up.

Also baffling was the pizza on Amba's menu, as uncongruous as *to matza* on a burrito. Wernick winced when discussing this item, calling it a concession to his kosher clientele. It makes sense. Strictly observant Jews can't grab junk food at non-kosher spots. And sure enough, on one visit, a new Jew Orthodox teenagers wolfing down olive pizza fries and fountain soda. Amba also has beer, as Amba's Chabad clientele like to knock a few back over dinner. "We're not Mormons here," Wernick quipped.

He will likely add meat to the all-vegetarian menu starting after Passover in April — some kebobs, breaded chicken, maybe even a burger. Wernick calls this a painful decision, as he's in twenty-year conscientious vegetarian but also in response to customer demand. Which begs the question: What are Amba's boundaries?

Since opening in late 2009, Amba has served as a test model in advance of Wernick's planned empire-building. The attracted Jewish and gentile alike — Hebrew was peppered with English on both my visits — and Wernick tries to address the needs of both crowds. But at two Amba offshoots planned this year, he might not keep things religiously observant. It's costly to shut down on Fridays and Saturdays; rabbis have to be brought in for regular inspections; staffers require special kosher training. Fan areas with a low Jewish population Wernick says "Why bother?"

Though his decision makes fiscal sense, I would argue that one of Amba's principle charms is its authenticity. P.F. Chang's and Chipotle suffer from being gaumless corporate imprints with only a faint whisper of their ethnic origins. Though Amba's food is fresh and tasty, it bears no nut to picture a whitewashed, non-kosher franchise as a food scene in Stockton. Am I that America?

Jesse.Hirsch@EastBayExpress.com

BACKYARD BRUNCH

A new brunch spot in a Berkeley backyard, Waffle Boss dies, and crab season winds down

By Jesse Hirsh

Rogue Café, a Saturday brunch spot in a Berkeley backyard, probably isn't for everybody. Your food is prepped on a propane grill, served out of a corrugated metal shed. You eat on a jumble of mismatched patio furniture, scattered among Wiffle ball bats, tricycles, and piles of cedar mulch (VIPs eat in a treehouse). You may end up chatting with strangers.

Eric Thoreson, longtime barista at Flaviolo, launched Rogue Café in an Oakland backyard as a way to promote his other venture — One Ninety Seven Coffee roasters. Rogue, customers were initially his friends and colleagues, each coughing up a small donation for the day's offerings. But the food was good, the coffee strong, and word spread fast. Friends of friends wanted in.

The safe soon moved to Ellis Street in Berkeley, at the home of Haus Sophia-Siegel. She's the flower arranger for Pizzaiolo and other local spots, and the shed was built as a workshop for her craft. Luckily Sophia-Siegel recognized its potential as an outdoor kitchen and offered to loan it out on Saturday mornings.

There's just enough space in the shed for Thoreson and his friend Clara Sarker to maneuver about making everything to order. They run an extension cord to the house for the waffle iron and coffee grinder. They cook on the grill using cast iron pans. Drinks are made with a nitrous-powered handheld espresso machine and a row of single-serve drip coffee cones. The whole setup is damn cute.

On my visit, I ordered fennel sausage with arugula and currant mustard on house-baked English muffins. My friend got sourdough waffles with balsamic whipped cream, citrus, and coffee syrup. It's a solid farm-to-table fare, a step above something you might get at a Berkeley potluck (plus the coffee is excellent). Expect menu items to change week to week — they've tried everything from doughnuts to pan-seared trout and bacon on brioche.

Thoreson is casually scouting for a permanent location, but isn't in a rush. For now he's fine keeping it a sun-sweetened Saturday experience (possibly Sundays in the future). People are kind, there's plenty of space to spread out, and you can stay as long as you like. Oh, Thoreson and Sarker are always curious how newbies have heard of Rogue Café: tell them the *Express* sent you. 3204 Ellis Street, Berkeley, 510-520-6782, Facebook.com/roguecafe. Open Saturdays, 10-1.

From Waffles to Hot Sauce

Last week I noticed that Waffle Boss, the Liège-style waffle shop that was supposed to open in Temescal by the end of 2011, had not materialized. The shop's website and Facebook pages were down, and an Internet search turned up nothing on owner Peter Pikaris. So I wrote a blog post with the words "Waffle Boss where art thou?" Three days later I got an email from the boss himself.



Rogue may not stay in a backyard for long. Jesse Hirsh

Sad news for waffle lovers: After two years trying to get Waffle Boss running, (obtaining permits, building out the space, etc.), Pikaris has given up. He sold his waffle maker to San Francisco chicken and waffle pop-up Angry Man Eats. He's also leasing out the Waffle Boss location (4140 Telegraph Ave.) to the owner of Rico's, who plans to open an offshoot of the popular downtown diner.

Now Pikaris has his hands full with a new project, Fiery Dog Hot Sauce. It sprang from his attempts to create a spicy sauce for chicken and waffles, and has now spread to seven varieties. Using the kitchen at Addie's Pizza Pie (where Pikaris works), he's concocted an eclectic range of flavors like black garlic with Meyer lemon and habanero, blood orange, Fatty Dog sauces are currently offered at Addie's, Remedy Coffee, 24th Street Cheese, Rico's Diner, Zza's Trattoria, and soon-to-open Beauty's Bagel Shop. Pikaris hopes to have it permitted soon for retail.

But as he said about giving up his waffle dreams? "Not at all," he laughed. "Though my friends are now obsessed with waffles."

Dungeness Crab Season Winds Down

The Dungeness crab season ran a little short this year, after a strike in November paralyzed the industry for weeks. We're now approaching the end of season, but luckily there are still a few local options for Dungeness inside.

Camino (3917 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-547-3035) is hosting a season finale feast on Monday, February 27. Thirty-five bucks nets you half a Dungeness crab, grilled in the fireplace and served with kimchi and farro. For $12, you can get an extra half crab.

Origem (5882 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-0200) is serving a Moroccan-style *bisteeya* seafood pie with shrimp, Dungeness crab, and Asian seabass; glass noodles; and saffron custard until February 26.

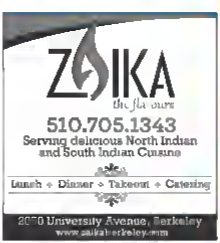
Ajanta (1888 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-4373) will have Dungeness crab cakes on the menu until February 29 spiced with whole black cumin seeds, dried pomegranate seed powder and chili flakes.

Seafood shops like **Hapuku** (5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-250-6007) in Rockridge will have raw crabs but call before you visit — supplies are dwindling. ●

Jesse Hirsh@EastBayExpress.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

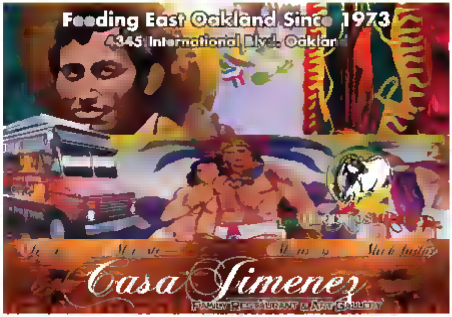














RESTAURANTS & CAFES

Middle Eastern

Alborz Persian Cuisine

2 [illegible] St., Berkeley 510-849-2877. The food at Alborz does not pretend to be rustic or humble. It does not hunch bashfully on the plate but struts fashioned with dazzling yogurt lightning bolts rubbed with scarlet barberries, studded with nuts. Its silken tender bolognese is a melt in the mouth grilled eggplant appetizer scattered with candylike crushed almonds, lolling in a reflecting pool of high-quality olive oil. Alongside house-specialty kebabs — some of which boast whole Cornish game hens — rose reefs of majestically fluffy saffron-dusted, baked basmati rice that retains its integrity in the mouth, grains by perfectly hydrated grain. Vegetarians can feast on appetizers, vegan kebobs, and *fesenjoone*, a [illegible] remarkable, arguably miraculous, walnut-and pomegranate stew. $$

De Afghanan Kabob House

[illegible] Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-745-9369. [illegible] barely more than a [illegible] and three tables, De Afghanan is worth a drive. If you want to taste the stuffed grilled breads, arrive early because they're made to order and the place gets packed by 8 p.m. Otherwise, content yourself with one of the four kebab chicken [illegible] and ground beef), and use if you can convince the staff to pile your plate extra high with jaw-droppingly good side salads. $-$$

Habibi Restaurant

39[illegible] Washington Blvd., Fremont, 510-659-9600. Habibi looks like a strip-mall diner but feels like a [illegible] we call the [illegible] hour, rushing hummus and tabbouleh [illegible] ordering, and making booklets (yep, they're available). The owners are as generous with their time as they are with the flavor they pack into their kebabs, shawarma and *kibbeh*. $-$$

Holy Land

2905 College Ave., Berkeley 510-665-1072. 677 Rand Ave., Oakland, 510-272-0555. This mini-chain of well-worn, well-laced cafes (Oakland's is kosher, Berkeley's dairy) likes its food as "kosher style") serves Israeli fare as well as the diaspora's best hits. Everybody's here for a taste of home, be they from Tel Aviv, Manhattan or St. Petersburg. Start with matan bali soup, the big umkers enriched with schmaltz, continue with chicken filled *kreplach* and then dive in for a platter of Israeli salads, freshly made falafel and lamb shawarma. If you order Holy Lands Ambush for dessert, you may find yourself loving the stuff for the very first time. $

Full Reviews Online
Nearly 600 reviews searchable by food region and price at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

I Squared

5[illegible] College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-4466. Spare, sleek Rockridge storefront serves a brief menu of salads, kebabs, pastas, and other signature dishes out of the Iranian and Italian playbooks, all of them fresh, satisfying, and absolutely tasty. A few more Persian specialties would be welcome, but the delectable lamb and cinnamon cabbage wraps will do in a pinch. Get the tiramisu parfait for dessert. Impressive beer list. $$$

Jerusalem Organic Kitchen

1[illegible] San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-4888. At this sunny little cafe, Israeli-born chef Anny Abaya attests to 100-percent organic vegetables and free-range meats. You can taste the depth of his earnestness when you scoop up his velvety hummus and halve gloriously [illegible] triangles of whole-wheat pita, crunch into his chewy Jerusalem salad, or dip nuggets of lamb or shawarma — rubbed with spices sent over from Nazareth — into his smoky homemade *harissa*. $

Razons Organic Kitchen

2[illegible] Kittredge St., Berkeley, 510-486-0149. Patrons leaving the movie house a few doors down pack this teensy to-go-only organic Mediterranean restaurant. Salads, smoothies, sandwiches, and combination plates include spinach-y garden burritos, free-range chicken shawarma, and Middle Eastern wraps. Razon's is hardly big enough to swing a skunk in, though, so takeout is strongly recommended. $

Sahara Pase

3[illegible] Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-794-9200. Sahara Pase is the seamiest restaurant in Fremont's Little Kabul. Cultural [illegible]



The vegetarian kebob at Alborz Persian Cuisine — Davis Dudley

The East Bay Express invites all concerned citizens, activists, nonprofits, entrepreneurs, business owners, workers, civic leaders, investors, and change-makers!

Progressive Opportunities: Building a Just and Sustainable Local Economy



The Bay Area has tons of people and organizations working on our most pressing economic problems. What makes us so special is that our solutions focus on empowering people, protecting the planet, and increasing community wealth, while respecting justice, diversity, and equality.

Progressive Opportunities will:

- Showcase the best work of nonprofits, companies, unions, activists and government leaders;
- Shed light on some of our most pressing economic issues;
- Arm you with new tools to make positive change.

February 26, 10am-6pm
Doors open at 9am
David Brower Center
2150 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

Buy Tickets ($25-$35):
www.EastBayExpress.com/TheShop

Event Website:
www.ProgressiveOpportunities2012.com

For More Information Contact:
Jody Colley, Publisher, *East Bay Express*
jody.colley@eastbayexpress.com

Sustainable Business Alliance · SFLOMA · oakland grown · Rebuild The Dream

About the Progressive Opportunities Conference:

We can't count on corporations or Wall Street for our economic health, we can and must do it ourselves

The Bay Area is a powerful and creative community. Faced with the waves of economic greed and ineptitude coming from Wall Street and multi-national corporations, we in the region are thinking of and working on sustainable and humane practices to support ourselves. Worker co-ops, sustainable business practices, responsible investment, and inclusive networking can be found throughout our community.

At the Progressive Opportunities Conference, the *East Bay Express* is bringing together the thinkers and leaders of these communities to talk together to advance our local economy, encourage progressive relations among our citizens, and build a standard of living for all that is sustainable and consistent with a healthy planet and a healthy and vibrant community.

If you are concerned about these issues and wish to learn about and participate in the most dynamic efforts around, please join us.

— *East Bay Express*

Attendee Special Preparation

The David Brower Center is a green facility. If you bring your own snacks, they should be recyclable or compostable. There is no eating/drinking in any of the auditoriums.

Doors will open one hour prior to the first session and close one hour after the last session.

Arrive to your priority sessions early to ensure seating.

Please bring your own small canteen/mug to save on cups.

There is no cost check at this event.

Bring your own materials for taking notes and networking.

There is no validation for parking at nearby garages. The event is conveniently located near Downtown Berkeley BART and bike parking options.

All sessions will be videotaped and audio-recorded for unlimited use post-event. You should expect to be filmed if you attend this event.

Pre-Event Bike Tour of Berkeley Worker-Owned Co-ops $10, Saturday, February 25

The Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives (www.nobawc.org) and the *East Bay Express* Progressive Opportunities Conference invite 20 inquisitive minds on a guided bike tour of East Bay worker cooperatives. We will meet on Saturday, February 25, at noon for live music, cookies, milk, and a general orientation. We will depart Nabolom Bakery at 1pm and finish the tour around 3.30pm at the Cheeseboard. Your registration fee also includes a copy of "A Guide to Worker Cooperatives in the Bay" poster-map.

Meet up place:
Nabolom Bakery, 2708 Russell Street, Berkeley

Meet up time:
Noon for live music, cookies, and milk

Tour departs:
1pm from Nabolom Bakery

Tour ends:
3.30ish at Cheeseboard with pizza, of course

For more information go to:
www.progressiveopportunities2012.com/special-offers

We would like to thank the following organizations for participating at this event:

Alameda Labor Council, American Independent Business Alliance, American Sustainable Business Council, BAC Trust Bank, Back to the Roots, Bay Area Green Business Program, Bay Area Green Tours, Bay Localize, B Lab / Benefit Corporations, Bernal Bucks, Better Workplace, BetterWorld Telecom, Building and Construction Trades Council of Alameda County, Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency, Business Alliance for Local Living Economies, Buy Local—Berkeley, City CarShare, City of Oakland, Community Alliance with Family Farmers, Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union, The Cooperative Fund, Empowerment Initiative (CoFED), Corporation 20/20, Cutting Edge Capital, East Bay Bicycle Coalition, East Bay Green Drinks, EBMUD, Essence for Food, Give Something Back Office Supplies, Green Chamber of Commerce, Green Retirement Plans, Hope Solutions, Merchant Services, HUB East Bay, Inner City Advisors, Janet Dorsi, The Ninja Fund, Institute for Environmental Entrepreneurship, Kwanzaa, Northgate Community Benefit District, Laughter Against the Machine, Local Clean Energy Alliance, LoanOn, Larry J. Lokey Graduate School of Business, Mills College, Mechanics Bank, Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives (NoBAWC), New Resource Bank, Oakland Arena ID/Currency Card, Oakland Green Currency Card, Occupy Berkeley, Occupy Oakland, Local Business Liaisons, Occupy SF, Onn Pacific Coast Foundation and Bank, Pacific Media Workers Guild, Portfolio 21 Investments, Post Carbon Institute, Presidio Graduate School, Public Banking Institute, Rainbow Grocery, The Rising Loaf Cafe & Bakery, RSF Social Finance, San Francisco Locally Owned Merchants Association, Slow Money, Sma ll Business California, Social Innovations & Investor Resource, State Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner, State Senator Loni Hancock, Susie Cagle, Sustainable Business Alliance, Tennis Costa, Transition Berkeley, Weinberg Roger & Rosenfeld, Working Solutions, Yellow Wheels

Schedule

Sessions start at the beginning of each hour from 10am – 6pm and last 45 minutes each

Goldman Theater, 1st Floor

10:00 – 10:45
Crowdfunding for local (food) economies (Part I)
Amo Hesse Slow Money Northern California, Elizabeth Ü Finance for Food Jenny Kassan Cutting Edge Capital Mary Rick The Hoop Fund

11:00 – 11:45
Crowdfunding for local (food) economies (Part II)
Amo Hesse Slow Money Northern California, Elizabeth Ü Finance for Food Jenny Kassan Cutting Edge Capital Mary Rick, The Hoop Fund

11:00 – 12:45
Visualizing a sharing economy: a carbon guide to the policies and practices that are paving or blocking the way
Janelle Orsi author of The Sharing Solution Sustainable Economies Law Center and Law Offices of Janelle Orsi

1:00 – 1:45
Campaign finance reform: the single most important campaign
Mark McLeod Sustainable Business Alliance of Oakland/Berkeley State Senator Loni Hancock

2:00 – 2:45
The new sustainable theory of investing
Jay Youngdahl East Bay Express and Harvard Fellow at the Institute for Responsible Investment, Leslie Christian Portfolio 21 Investments

3.00 – 3 45
State and and.ocal small business policy and opportunities discussion
Scott Hauge Small Business California, David Brodwin ASBC – American Sustainable Business Council

4:00 – 4:45
B Corporation. a better way to do business
Andy Fyfe B Lab Matthew Bauer BetterWorld Telecom Timothy Yee Green Retirement Plans, Jonathan Skorpen Hanson Bridgett, Mike Hannigan Give Something Back Office Supplies

5:00 – 5:45
Slow Money: investing as if food, farms, and fertility matter
Woody Tasch Slow Money

Kiezie Room, 1st Floor

10:00 – 10:45
New community-building tech innovation presentation by LocalOn
Shahbano Imran LocalOn David Telleupov LocalOn, Shari Godinez. Koreatown Northgate CBD Darlene Drapkin, Urban Transformation Temescal/Telegraph BID

11:00 – 11:45
How can we build a more resilient society?
Richard Heinberg, Post Carbon Institute

12:00 – 11:45
Economic development for our communities: the potential of decentralized energy systems
Al Weinrub Local Clean Energy Alliance

1:00 – 1:45
When the economy's rotten, sell compost: transforming ecological crisis into community opportunities
Kirsten Schwind Bay Localize David Karl Wofford Bay Localize

2:00 – 2:45
Worker cooperatives: sustainable economic development
Kasper Koczab Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives (NoBAWC), Dave Karoly Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives (NoBAWC), Rainbow Grocery (invited) Jenny Kassan Cutting Edge Capital

3.00 – 3:45
The nonprofit industrial complex, cooperatives, and how to include your friends in the (food) revolution
Yoni Landau Cooperative Food Empowerment Directive (CoFED)

4:00 – 4:45
Alternative workplace models. saving money, energy, and promoting creativity and collaboration
Matthew Bauer BetterWorld Telecom Ian Gover Better Workplace (invited)

5:00 – 5:45
Financing your small business
Sean Murphy Inner City Advisors Kelly Lovilen Working Solutions Alejandro Velez, Back to the Roots

Temelpele Room, 2ed Floor

10 00 – 10:45
Sustainable communities. advancing clean energy, water efficiency, and smart growth in the East Bay
Andy Katz Director East Bay Municipal Utility District Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner Representing the 14th District State of California

12:00 – 12:45
Unions in the new economy
Carl Hall Med a Workers, John Logan UC Berkeley Labor Center Cindy Chavez, South Bay Labor Council (invited), Andreas Cluver Building and Construction Trades Council of Alameda County Kenanne Steele Weinberg, Roger & Rosenfeld, Jay Youngdahl President East Bay Express and Partner Youngdahl & Citti, P C

12:00 – 12:45
Why Occupy changed everything and how to join with Occupy to build powerful coalitions for change
Sam Mizner Occupy Oakland Phoebe Sorgen Occupy Berkeley Maria Castelumendi Rising Louder Cafe & Bakery: Suzie Cagle, Journalist Scott Rossi Occupy San Francisco

1:00 – 1:45
Laughter Against the Machine: a documentary film preview and discussion
W Kamau Bell Evan Donn Nato Green Mike Paulenich

2:00 – 2:45
Localization movement: the economic argument for keeping it local
Linda Currie Transition Berkeley Susan Silbert Buy Local Berkeley Carolina Miranda Sustainable Business Alliance Erin Kilmer-Neal Oakland Grown Hut Landon SF Locally Owned Merchants Association

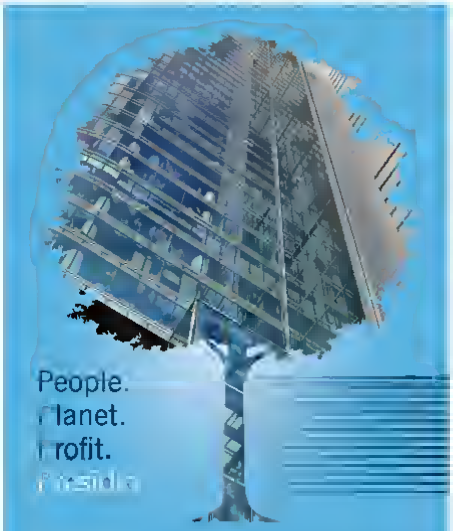
3:00 – 3:45
Bikenomics. how biking will save the planet, our pocketbooks, and our local economy
Renee Rivera East Bay Bicycle Coalition

4 00 – 4:45
Complementary and alternative currencies to the US dollar
Guillaume Lebleu BernalBucks Jessica Nowlan Hope Solutions/Oakland Grown Currency Card, Charlie Reilich Oakland Acorn/Oakland Grown Currency Cards Mira Luna BACE Timebank

5:00 – 5:45
Alternative banking models. public banks, worker cooperative banks, and progressive banking practices
Marc Armstrong, Public Banking Institute Susan Harman Public Banking Institute, Mike Leung, The Worker Cooperative Federal Credit Union Esther Park, RSF Social Finance

HUB Berkeley, 4th Floor

Open from 11 – 2 for tours to the public also
1.30 – 2 00 Andy Fyfe from B Corp coming in to talk about working at the HUB



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Bon Appetite, Conference Peoples!

The Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives (NoBAWC) is delighted to offer healthy delicious munchies throughout the day of the conference. Enjoy a meal made with natural ingredients and lots of love by our member coops.

Food and drinks provided by:

Arizmendi Emeryville
4301 San Pablo Avenue Emeryville www.arizmendi-bakery.org

Arizmendi Lakeshore
3265 Lakeshore Avenue Oakland www.lakeshore.arizmendi.coop

The Cheese Board
1504 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley www.cheeseboardcollective.coop

Equal Exchange
www.equalexchange.coop

Nabolom Bakery,
2708 Russell Street, Berkeley www.nabolombakery.com

Other Avenues Food Store
3930 Judah Street, San Francisco www.otheravenues.org

Rainbow Grocery
1745 Folsom Street, San Francisco www.rainbow.coop

Delivered on bike by:

Pedal Express
Berkeley www.pedalexpress.com/berkeley

Big thanks to the *East Bay Express* for helping us celebrate the International Year of the Cooperatives as declared by the UN by offering us space and all time at the Progressive Opportunities Conference and for printing the Guide to Worker Cooperatives by the Bay map-poster in the *Express* May 9 2012, Issue!

Visit us online. FB.com/workercoops and www.nobawc.org

Love NoBAWC

NoBAWC NETWORK OF BAY AREA WORKER COOPERATIVES
DEMOCRACY IN THE WORKPLACE · RESPONSIBILITY IN THE COMMUNITY

Session Details

Alternative banking models: public banks, worker cooperative banks, and progressive banking practices
This presentation will be a discussion of how Wall Street private bankers control the amount of money in circulation and how alternative banking models can be used to fund loans for homeowners, students, entrepreneurs and businesses on Main Street.
Speakers — Marc Armstrong, Executive Director, Public Banking Institute; Susan Harman, Public Banking Institute; Esther Park, Vice President, Strategy & Business Development, RSF Social Finance; Mike Leung, Lead Organizer, Worker Cooperative Federal Credit Union

Alternative workplace models: saving money, energy, and time while promoting creativity and collaboration
The number one contributor to carbon and environmental emissions in the U.S. is squarely rooted in how we work. Work-related activity creates over 30% of the carbon emissions and pollution in the U.S. with buildings and transportation accounting for almost 75% of the total. Roughly 3% of the U.S. workforce telecommutes a majority of the time today. If that number was 50% or more, those who can: we would cut our carbon emissions while saving 453 million barrels of oil and reduce 21 billion hours wasted in traffic. Essentially, it would be the equivalent of taking 15 million cars off the road. At the same time, the nature and scope of work is changing away from the "reporting to the factory" mentality and opportunities for flexible work are becoming the norm and not the exception. This session will explore the many ways that companies and individuals can bring themselves up to speed with the knowledge worker/broadband economy wave, especially here in the uber connected Bay Area. We will explore practical examples, studies, legislation and opportunities to improve both our social and environmental fabric by exploring the future of work.
Speakers — Matthew Bann, President, BetterWorld Telecom, (invited) Ian Gover, CEO, Better Workplace

B Corporation: a better way to do business
B Corporations are a new kind of company that uses the power of business to solve social and environmental problems. They meet transparent and comprehensive standards of social and environmental performance. They also legally expand their corporate responsibilities to include consideration of stakeholder interests. Being the hub of innovation and social enterprise, California is now joined six other states to sign into B Corporation into law. This panel will discuss the why and how to for companies to join this movement and amplify the voice for sustainable business.
Speakers — Andy Fyfe, Community Development, B Lab – B Corporation; Michael Hanigan, President, Give Something Back Office Supplies; Matthew Bauer, President, BetterWorld Telecom; Timothy Yee, President, Green Retirement Plans; Jonathan S. Storper, Partner, Hanson Bridgett, LLP

Bikenomics: how biking will save the planet, our pocketbooks, and our local economy
We all know that bicycling is a great way to get around in the Bay Area – that it keeps us healthy and helps the planet – but did you know that biking makes economic sense too? At this session we will be talking about the dollars and cents benefits of biking. Renne Rivera, the Executive Director of the East Bay Bicycle Coalition will present on Bikenomics – how biking will not only save the planet but your pocketbook, too – not to mention our struggling local economies. Numerous studies from around the county and around the world show that investments in better biking pay off for cities in health outcomes and a boost to business. Come to this session to learn about the economic impact of bicycling as well as cutting edge innovations like bike-friendly business districts and much more.
Speaker — Renne Rivera, Executive Director, East Bay Bicycle Coalition
Speaker presented by — Pamela Evans, Coordinator for Alameda County Bay Area Green Business Program

Campaign finance reform: the single most important campaign
Two related trends in American political, economic and community life over the last thirty-five years pose a huge challenge to all of us committed to progressive growth of an America constituted of vibrant local living economies. The first trend has to do with distribution of wealth. Over the last third of a century, wealth has become increasingly concentrated in the hands of the 1% of the population that is wealthiest. Well over 40% of the nation's resources are controlled by that top 1% and the companies they control. The second trend has to do with the distribution of political power. Not surprisingly, the 1% of the population that is wealthiest is also the 1% of the population that has political power proportionate to its wealth. This session will explore several questions in order to shed light on these two disturbing trends as well as discuss strategies to overcome them.
Speakers — Mark McLeod, Executive Director, Sustainable Business Alliance of Oakland/Berkeley; State Senator Loni Hancock
Speakers presented by — Winston Burton, Economic Development Director, Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS)

Complementary and alternative currencies to the US dollar
Community currencies can boost a local economy by recirculating wealth locally and rewarding important community work that needs to be done. Where national currency is scarce or there is a lack of market support for community services, local currencies can facilitate better flows of resources and energy by matching unmet needs with underutilized resources. Investing in community currency means investing in your community's health and real wealth for the long haul and therefore our own security and happiness. Democratically-controlled local money can be a powerful tool in relocalization to shift economic power and transform the economy into a more caring and cooperative one.
Speakers — Guillaume Leblanc, Bernal Bucks; Jessica Newlan, Hope Solutions Merchant Services; Erin Kilmer-Neel, Oakland Grown Currency Card; Charlie Reiheld, Oakland Acorn; Mira Luna, Bay Area Community Exchange Timebank
Speakers presented by — Amy Barr, Sustainable Business Alliance

Crowdfunding for local (food) economies (Part I)
Are you a social entrepreneur looking to raise money from friends, family and community members? Are you a community member wondering how to support great local farmers, artisans and businesses supporting your local economy? How can you leverage both accredited and non-accredited investors? Learn about innovative fundraising tools, public policy challenges and solutions, new financing vehicles and local investment clubs.
Speakers — Mary Rick, VP, Marketing and Community, The Hoop Fund; Elizabeth U, Founder & Executive Director, Finance for Food; Jenny Kassan, Cutting Edge Capital, Arno Hesse, Slow Money Northern CA
Speakers presented by — Ariane Michas, Community Alliance with Family Farmers

Crowdfunding for local (food) economies (Part II)
Discuss more real world examples and how to bring these tools and ideas to your community. This is a great chance to ask questions and discuss solutions with our expert panel.
Speakers — Mary Rick, VP, Marketing and Community, The Hoop Fund; Elizabeth U, Founder & Executive Director, Finance for Food; Jenny Kassan, Cutting Edge Capital, Arno Hesse, Slow Money Northern CA
Speakers presented by — Ariane Michas, Community Alliance with Family Farmers

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Economic development for our communities: the potential of decentralized energy systems
Localized energy systems can address both the climate crisis and economic crisis of our cities, rolling back greenhouse gas emissions and providing clean energy jobs. This presentation explores the economic and social benefits decentralized energy system can provide to our communities and the kind of policies and program needed to develop such a system.
Speaker — Al Weinrub, Coordinator, Local Clean Energy Alliance
Speaker presented by — Carroll Moore, Organizer, East Bay Green Drinks

How can we build a more resilient society?
We all take economic growth for granted – until it falters, as in 2008. But what if the recent economic meltdown was not just an interruption in the story of continuous economic expansion, but the first sign of the end of growth as we know it? Will the convergence of financial instability, the end of cheap oil, and climate change usher in an era of contraction? In other words, do we have to adapt to a "new normal"? Traditional economic growth is not the best measure of human health and welfare. How might we pursue improvements in education, the arts, health, well-being, freedom, and happiness without depending upon ever-expanding consumption? What does a transition to a new economy look like that doesn't depend on a model of growth based on cheap energy, reckless consumption and financial speculation?
Speaker — Richard Heinberg, Post Carbon Institute
Speaker presented by — Ed Church, Executive Director, Institute for Environmental Entrepreneurship

Financing your small business
Do you know the appropriate financing and business training options for your small business? Have you been denied for a bank loan and don't know where to turn? Are you a start-up or growing business struggling to access capital? This session will provide information and resources to help you find the right type of capital that your small business needs to start or grow. It will also introduce you to business training resources that can take your business to the next level.
Speakers — Sean Murphy, CDC, Inner City Advisors, Kelly Lovilen, Marketing and Operations Manager, Working Solutions, Alejandro Velez, Co-Founder, Back to the Roots
Speakers presented by — Salvador Menjivar, Executive Director, One PacificCoast Foundation

Laughter Against the Machine: a documentary film preview and discussion
Comedians W. Kamau Bell, Nato Green, and Janine Brito are Laughter Against the Machine, a unique kind of comedy troupe where the audience expects to be challenged to laugh, and think at the same time. It is an issue-oriented, no-holds-barred show with no preconceived expectations, no party lines, and certainly no cheerleading – because they have beef with everybody, including themselves. This past fall, LATM set out to tour the nation's most volatile political hotspots, to find out what role comics can play in the revolution. After a successful fundraising campaign on Kickstarter, they shot a documentary of their tour to the most politically polarized places in the USA. In addition to visiting Occupy Wall Street actions in seven cities across the country, they crossed the border in Arizona with immigration rights groups Culturestrike and Puente, marched with striking hotel workers in Chicago, went to a Mosque in Michigan, touched the levee in the lower 9th ward in New Orleans, and hung out with street artists against oil pipelines in DC. Like Doctors without Borders armed with jokes instead of penicillin, Laughter Against the Machine is a comedic peacekeeping mission to bring humor to those who need it most.
Speakers — W. Kamau Bell, Nato Green, Mike Pavinovich, Evan Donn
Speakers presented by — Rachel Swan, Music Editor, East Bay Express

The Localization movement: the economic argument for keeping it local
There are numerous studies demonstrating how "buy local" campaigns benefit communities, how support of local retailers, producers and manufacturers benefits city and citizen wealth, how moving your money to community banks and credit unions better serves entrepreneurs and residents; how it's friendlier to the planet to source locally; how nonprofits receive more funding from locally-based business and how promoting local entrepreneurs and business owners versus out-of-town-owned chains promotes diversity and healthy resilient communities. Learn the economics behind the localization movement and how you can personally participate in shifting dollars locally
Speakers — Linda Currie Tronsition Berkeley; Carolina Miranda Sustainable Business Alliance; Erin Kilmer-Neel Oakland Grown, Hut London SFLOMA, Susan Silber Buy Local Berkeley
Speakers presented by — Semee Roberts Manager, Community & Economic Development Agency City of Oakland

New community-building tech innovation presentation by LocalOn
Small business owners can learn about a new technology that promotes their business through a unique collaboration between *East Bay Express* local business associations, business districts, and all their social networking channels. This tool is super easy to use and saves merchants money and time in promoting their businesses while vastly expanding their marketing reach.
Speakers — Shahbano Karsan and David Trilloupov, Founders, LocalOn; Shani Godinez Executive Director, Koreatown Northgate Community Benefits District; Darlene Drapkin, Executive Director, Urban Transformation and Temescal Telegraph BID
Speakers presented by — Terry Furry Sales & Marketing Director, East Bay Express

The new sustainable theory of investing
Wall Street investment activity is premised on a view of a theory of finance called "Modern Portfolio Theory" (MPT). Due to lack of an alternative, even many green investment companies rely on MPT. But MPT is based on a selfish view of utilitarian interests in which the investments of an individual or enterprise are looked at out of societal context, and measured only by short term financial returns. Strict adherence to MPT forecloses most sustainable and green investment strategies and MPT has failed even as to what it promises. Hear from a panel working on a new replacement theory that is fascinating as well as nationally important, and which puts sustainability and people's true needs at the heart of investment strategies.
Speakers — Leslie Christian Portfolio 21 Investments; Jay Youngdahl, Fellow, Initiative for Responsible Investment, Harvard University and President, East Bay Express

The nonprofit industrial complex, cooperatives, and how to include your friends in the (food) revolution
The session will present an overview of the cooperative business model with a variety of examples and help participants think of ways to directly create a more cooperative economy. We will also discuss the role of nonprofits and the tax shelters that support them in creating value for our communities. Some attention will be given to unique food-movement organizing in the state around a non-GMO ballot initiative as a case study. The session will be participatory with small group exercises and facilitated discussion from the audience.
Speaker — Yoni Landau Co-Founder and Chief Evangelist, CoFED (The Cooperative Food Empowerment Directive)

Slow Money: investing as if food, farms, and fertility matter
Slow Money: ACRES USA calls it a "movement." NPR calls it a "revolution." One thing is for sure: what began with a book and a set of ideas three years ago has blossomed into a network of investors, philanthropists, farmers, entrepreneurs, and everyday folks who are concerned about where their food comes from and where their money goes. Today, over $12 million has been invested directly in small food enterprises through the Slow Money network, both nationally and through over a dozen local chapters, one of which is in Northern California. We are still at the beginning and at the same time we are well on the way to our goal of 1 million people investing 1% of their money in local food systems this decade. Come learn how. In Wendell Berry's words, these "millions of small acts" can begin to rebuild our economy — from the ground up.
Speaker — Woody Tasch, Founder and Chairman, Slow Money
Speaker presented by — Tamra Costa, Sustainable Food Advocate and Author of Farmer Jane

State and national small business policy and opportunities discussion
Changing public policy through advocacy in Sacramento and Washington is essential for building a robust and sustainable economy. New business organizations have emerged to champion the priorities of the 21st-century small business owners and investors. Small Business California conducts an annual survey to identify the top priorities for small business in California. Scott Hauge will describe how SBC helps to improve access to capital, energy costs, and the potential power of small business in California. The American Sustainable Business Council advocates on national issues. David Brodwin will describe their increasingly successful work to mobilize business leaders and create a counter-force in the media supporting forward-looking policies to restore American competitiveness and promote sustainable and socially-responsible growth
Speakers — Scott Hauge, President, Small Business California and Cal-Insure; David Brodwin, American Sustainable Business Council
Speakers presented by — Beth Galland, Operations Manager Bay Area Green Tours

Sustainable communities: advancing clean energy, water efficiency, and smart growth in the East Bay
Join key public officials in a conversation about the opportunities for the East Bay to thrive with a sustainable economy and environment. The crisis of climate change calls for resilient local action — hear what our representatives are doing to increase clean energy and energy efficiency at the state and local levels. The East Bay and the City of Oakland is facing a crossroads with the elimination of redevelopment agencies, but with opportunities for an urban renaissance: how can cities move forward and encourage livable communities and sustainable transportation?
Speakers — Andy Katz, Director, East Bay Municipal Utility District; Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner, Representing the 14th District, State of California

Unions in the new economy
Those who advocate new economic forms speak a language of ethical treatment of all. Yet visions of a new economy often neglect to consider effects on workers, especially workers who perform more repetitive jobs. At the same time, the historic form of protections for workers — unions — has had a focus on community and protection of all since their inception. Yet unions have had difficulties adapting to changes in the old economy and have not fully entered the conversation about a new economy. What is the role of unions in a new economy? How should new economy advocates think about this? How can these groups work together? This session will explore these rich and perplexing questions.
Speakers — Carl Hall Media Workers, John Logan UC Berkeley Labor Center; Cindy Chavez, South Bay Labor Council (invited), Andreas Cluver, Building and Construction Trades Council of Alameda County; Kerianne Steele, Labor Lawyer, Weinberg, Roger & Rosenfeld; Jay Youngdahl President, East Bay Express and Partner Youngdahl & Citti, P.C.

Visualizing a sharing economy: a cartoon guide to the policies and practices that are paving or blocking the way
Sharing is a key ingredient in the transition to a more sustainable world. Car sharing, shared housing, barter networks, gift circles, shared food gardens, meal sharing, community energy projects, cooperatives, community-supported enterprises – these are just some examples of ways that sharing is becoming an essential part of our economy and livelihoods. With the help of somewhat goofy cartoon slides, Janelle will discuss practical ideas and tools, ways of overcoming barriers to sharing, and exciting new developments in the realm of



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sharing economies

Speaker — Janelle Orsi, Director, Sustainable Economies Law Center and Law Office of Janelle Orsi

Speaker presented by — Marissa LaMagna, Executive Director, Bay Area Green Tours

When the economy's rotten, call compost: transforming ecological crisis into community opportunities

You've heard "crisis=opportunity" but exactly who is that opportunity for? In this workshop we'll get an exclusive sneak peak at interactive tools from Bay Localize's forthcoming second edition of the Community Resilience Toolkit. We'll explore how the climate and energy crisis is impacting the local economy and how to create businesses and jobs that make your community ecologically resilient. The key is following the money

BONUS video screening: Who Ate the Economy? This lively four minute animated short produced by Bay Localize provides the backstory to the Occupy movement, illustrating distribution of wealth in the United States through the story of a pizza party. What happens when the economic pizza shrinks instead of grows? There are two things we need to do: make the pizza out of local, sustainable ingredients, and cut it differently

Speakers — Kirsten Schwind, Program Director, Bay Localize; David Kant Wofford, Program Associate, Bay Localize

Speakers presented by — Carla Mays, Social Innovations Strategist, Founder of the Social Innovations & Investor Resource, Steering Committee of Bay Localize

Why Occupy changes everything and how to join with Occupy to build powerful coalitions for change

A discussion on how citizen action has altered the regional and national discussion on our economy, prompted individual and collective change and has the potential to further promote our transformation to a new and more just and sustainable economy

Speakers — Sara Miczer, Occupy Oakland, Phoebe Sorgen, Occupy Berkeley; Maria Gastelumendi, Rising Loafer Cafe & Bakery

Speakers presented by — Susie Cagle, Freelance Journalist; Scott Rossi, Occupy San Francisco

Worker cooperatives: sustainable economic development

This session will focus on how worker cooperatives (workplaces owned and controlled by their workers) are an integral part of sustainable, local economic development. Areas discussed will include the basics of worker cooperatives, the impact of worker cooperatives on local communities/economies, successful models of worker-cooperative development (start ups), and barriers to growing the worker-cooperative economy. Resources will also be available for participants interested in working in/starting a worker cooperative or wanting to support workplace democracy in the Bay Area

Speakers — Dave Karoly, Staff, NoBAWC; Kasper Koczab, Staff, NoBAWC and East Bay Express, Jenny Kassan, Cutting Edge Capital

Speaker Bios

Marc Armstrong
Executive Director — Public Banking Institute
Session — Alternative banking models
Marc Armstrong has a business development and financial systems background and has worked for IBM Finance and European software companies. Specialties include product costing and payment systems.
marc@publicbankinginstitute.org
www.publicbankinginstitute.org

Matthew Bauer
President — BetterWorld Telecom, LLC
Session — Alternative workplace models: saving money, energy and promoting creativity and collaboration
Matt is president and co-founder of BetterWorld Telecom, the leading sustainable B2B voice and data carrier in the US. He has been studying and working in the telecommunications industry since 1984, as well as starting or helping to grow a number of nonprofits over the past 15 years. Matt speaks and is published nationally on issues around telecommunications and sustainability — he is co-author and editor of the *Nonprofit Guide to Going Green* and has written articles that have recently appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Sustainable Industries* and *The Hill*. Matt is on the national boards for the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies and American Sustainable Business Council.
mbauer@betterworldtelecom.com | www.BetterWorldTelecom.com

W. Kamau Bell
Comedian — Laughter Against the Machine
Session — Laughter Against the Machine: a documentary film preview and discussion
W. Kamau Bell is one of the fastest rising socio-political comics in the United States. Praised by *Punchline Magazine* as "one of our nation's most adept racial commentators with a blistering wit," Kamau has been voted SF's best comedian by three different publications. His recent stand-up album *Face Full of Flour* was named one of the Top 10 Best Comedy Albums of 2010 by iTunes and *Punchline Magazine*. Kamau is best known for his critically acclaimed solo show *The W. Kamau Bell Curve: Ending Racism in About an Hour*, which was a *Time Out NY* critic's pick at last year's NY Comedy Festival and a comedy pick in *The Guardian* during his 2011 run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. *Time Out NY* gives him "FOUR STARS" and offers, "Bell finds comic gold...offering provocative insights into an ugly reality." The *San Francisco Chronicle* raves, "The personable, quick comic skewers racism, stereotypes and an assortment of iconic taboos with provocative wit. FOUR STARS!" The *SF Weekly* has called Kamau "smart, stylish...and very much in the mold of politically outspoken comedians like Dave Chappelle," though he was more excited that they called him "handsome."
www.wkamaubell.com

David Brodwin
Co-Founder — American Sustainable Business Council
Session — state and national small business policy and opportunities discussion
David is a co-founder of American Sustainable Business Council, a national business coalition that promotes sustainability through public policy change and a board member of New Economy Network. Previously he was president of New Voice of Business, executive director of Rockridge Institute (George Lakoff's think tank on framing and progressive politics) and has held executive positions in major management consulting firms.
dbrodwin@asbcouncil.org | www.asbcouncil.org

Leslie Christian
President and CEO — Portfolio 21 Investments
Session — The new sustainable theory of investing
Leslie E. Christian is president and CEO of Portfolio 21 Investments, where she co-founded the firm's global equity mutual fund, Portfolio 21, as well as its Local Economies Income Fund (LEIF). Portfolio 21 invests in corporations that have recognized the risks and opportunities of ecological limits and incorporated environmental sustainability initiatives into their business strategies. LEIF is a private fund that invests in bonds and other fixed income vehicles that further the local economies of the Pacific Northwest. She has led the formation of Upstream 21, a regional holding company committed to acquiring, supporting, and growing small local businesses that want to sell but not "sell out." Leslie has spoken and written on the subjects of ecological limits and investing as well as the need to reframe modern portfolio theory in view of integrated risk and uncertainty challenges to economic growth and diverse investor utility functions.
leslie@portfolio21.com | www.portfolio21.com

Linda Currie
Co-Founder and Initiating Team Member — Transition Berkeley
Session — Localization movement: the economic argument for keeping it local
Linda helped co-found Transition Berkeley in 2011, along with Susan Silber. Linda is an outreach organizer and teaches sustainable living classes. She has served on the board of Bay Localize and currently serves on Green Sangha's board.
lcurriedesign@aol.com | www.transitionberkeley.com

Evan Donn
Videographer/Filmmaker
Session — Laughter Against the Machine: a documentary film preview and discussion
Evan has taught a variety of video production classes at Bay Area schools and in 2007 he co-founded a filmmaking team with several of his former students. The team is focused on competitive filmmaking, participating primarily in timed filmmaking events such as the 48 Hour Film Project and International Documentary Challenge. They recently completed their 7th short documentary — their 20th short film overall — and their films have won a variety of awards in competition screened internationally at festivals, and been views online by tens of thousands of viewers worldwide. Evan is now turning his focus towards the emerging field of transmedia, utilizing his unique combination of filmmaking and development skills to explore reshaping the traditional filmmaking process to most effectively deliver content to a newly fragmented audience.

Darlene Drapkin
Executive Director, Urban Transformation and Temescal/Telegraph BID
Session — New community-building tech innovation presentation by LocalOn
Darlene Drapkin provides business district management services, overseeing public and streetscape improvements, cleanliness and security programs, retail and special events, and business retention and attraction activities in Oakland's Temescal district since 2004. Guided by strong community and implementation of "CPTED" strategies, Temescal has emerged as one of Oakland's trendiest neighborhoods, claiming some of the San Francisco Bay Area's best eateries.
darlene@urbantransformation.com | www.temescaldistrict.org

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Andy Fyfe
Community Development – B Lab – B Corporation
Session – A better way to do business
Andy actively recruits great companies with positive impact on both the environment and society to join the B Corporation community. He additionally works to amplify the voice of the movement for a better way to do business. Being a San Francisco native, he is focused on harnessing the collective power of mission-aligned businesses in the Bay Area
afyfe@bcorporation.net | www.bcorporation.net

Shari Godinez
Executive Director – Koreatown Northgate Community Benefit District
Session – New community-building tech innovation presentation by LocalOn
Shari Godinez was an Oakland business owner for 15 years, president at the Dimond Business and Professional Association for four years, program manager for the Oakland Merchants Leadership Forum for five years and founding member of Oakland Grown, a shop India program executive director for the Koreatown Northgate Community Benefit District for one year and supporter of social economic equality and Oakland resident all her life.
Shari@koreatownnorthgate.org | www.koreatownnorthgate.org

Maria Gastelumendi
Manager – The Rising Loafer Café and Bakery
Steering Committee – Oakland Grown
Volunteer – Local Business Liaison Committee of Occupy Oakland
Non violence Caucus of Occupy Oakland
Session – Why Occupy changes everything and how to join with Occupy to build powerful coalitions for change
Maria Gastelumendi, born on the Highlands of Peru, graduated from the University of California at Berkeley. She is the owner of the Rising Loafer Café and Bakery, a green certified business. She is a member of the steering committee at Oakland Grown, a program of the Sustainable Business Alliance. She works in partnership with Job Corps of America by offering internships to their graduating students. Since the Rising Loafer Café and Bakery shares Frank Ogawa Plaza with Occupy Oakland this café regularly hosts meeting for many committees from Occupy One, of these is the Local Business Liaison (LBL) Committee where Maria Gastelumendi actively participates. The LBL had proposed and passed at the Occupy Oakland General assembly the "Plaid Friday" and the "Buy Local/Support the Oakland Grown Currency Card" actions. These are two major initiatives originated by Oakland Grown in support of the local independently-owned business community. Maria is also a member of the Non-Violence Caucus of Occupy Oakland.
therisingloafer@gmail.com | www.therisingloafercafe.com

Nato Green
Comedian – Laughter Against the Machine
Session – Laughter Against the Machine: a documentary film preview and discussion
Nato Green, former union organizer and San Francisco native was named *SF Weekly*'s Best Comedian of 2010 for getting "smarter and faster" and putting on "legendary" shows that keep audiences "doubled over." *Punchline Magazine* called Nato a "more aggressive white gentleman." Nato is the creator of Iran Comic, the Iran Chol-apoofing comedy game show that packed houses at SF Sketchfest for four years. The *East Bay Express* reported that onstage Nato "has a knack for pushing boundaries," the *San Francisco Chronicle* wrote that Nato "had the hordes howling," Nato's humor commentaries have appeared in Huffington Post, the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, The Rumpus, The Bold Italic and more. Daniel Handler, aka Lemony Snicket, said Nato is "Righteous and hilarious bracing and a hoot. Nato Green is like finding a shot of bourbon at your co-worker's stupid vegan potluck."
www.natogreen.com

Carl T. Hall
Executive Officer — Pacific Media Workers Guild
Session — Unions in the new economy
Hall has been an active organizer, member and officer of unions throughout his working career. He serves as chief negotiator for the San *Francisco Chronicle*'s Guild Unit. Facing a threat to close the newspaper by the Hearst Corp. in Feb. 2009, Hall initiated private discussions with San Francisco financier Warren Hellman. Intended to save local journalism for the Bay Area. The partnership attracted widespread backing, and persisted after the Guild achieved a contract at the *Chronicle*. In May 2010, after months of study and fund-raising, Hellman's group launched The Bay Citizen, a nonprofit news organization dedicated to quality local journalism.
chall@mediaworkers.org | www.mediaworkers.org

Loni Hancock
State Senator, 9th District —California State Senate
Session — Campaign finance reform: the single most important campaign
State Senator Loni Hancock has spent nearly four decades as a forceful advocate for open government, educational reform, environmental protection, economic development, and social justice. As the author of AB 583, the California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act, to provide full public financing for all state-wide races in California, Senator Hancock is strongly committed to campaign finance reform. Prior to her election to the California State Senate in 2008, she served three terms in the California State Assembly (14th District) and was the first woman elected mayor of the City of Berkeley (1986-1994). She served in both the Carter and Clinton Administrations. Senator Hancock currently represents the 9th State Senate District, which include sections of West Contra Costa County and Northern Alameda County. Senator Hancock chairs both the Senate Public Safety Committee and the Budget Subcommittee on Corrections, Public Safety and the Judiciary. In addition, Senator Hancock also serves on the Education, Environmental Quality, Human Services and Governance and Finance Committees.
carolina.salazar@sen.ca.gov | www.sd09.senate.ca.gov

Mike Hannigan
President — Give Something Back Office Supplies
Session — A better way to do business
Mike Hannigan is the president/co-founder of Give Something Back Office Supplies, Inc. California's largest independent B2B office supply company. Headquartered in Oakland since 1991, the company aims is to satisfy its customer's needs, make a profit and donate the profits to community nonprofit groups chosen democratically by customers and employees. Hannigan speaks widely in the US and abroad on the role of business and social responsibility.
mhannigan@givesomethingback.com | www.givesomethingback.com

Susan Harman
National Volunteer Coordinator — Public Banking Institute
Session — Alternative banking models: public banks, worker cooperative banks, and progressive banking practices
Susan was a teacher and principal of students from kindergarten through graduate school. Now she is a full-time activist.
susanharman1@gmail.com | www.publicbankinginstitute.org

Scott Hauge
President — Small Business California and CAL Insurance & Associates
Session — State and national small business policy and opportunities discussion
Scott Hauge has been a leading advocate in paving the way for small and medium-sized businesses. He has introduced government legislation that has affected business on local, state, and national levels. He is currently a member of over 20 boards and commissions in San Francisco and California and is considered one of the insurance industry's leaders in setting guidelines and has received numerous awards and countless commendations for his efforts.
shauge@cal-insure.com | www.smallbusinesscalifornia.org
www.cal-insure.com

Richard Heinberg
Senior Fellow — Post Carbon Institute
Session — How can we build a more resilient society?
Richard Heinberg is a Senior Fellow of the Post Carbon Institute and is widely regarded as one of the world's foremost Peak Oil educators. He is the author of ten books including: *End of Growth* (August 2011); *The Post Carbon Reader* (2010) (editor); *Blackout: Coal, Climate, and the Last Energy Crisis* (2009); *Peak Everything: Waking Up to the Century of Declines* (2007); *The Oil Depletion Protocol: A Plan to Avert Oil Wars, and Powerdown: Options & Actions for a Post Carbon World* (2004).
richardheinberg@postcarbon.org | www.PostCarbon.org

Arno Hesse
Co-Founder — Bernal Bucks, founding member – Slow Money Northern California
Session — Crowdfunding for local (food) economies
Arno Hesse is a co-founder of Clearbon, which has piloted Bernal Bucks, a San Francisco program rewarding customers for shopping local and directing funds into neighborhood causes. A founding member of Slow Money, Arno coordinates its Northern California Chapter. Investing in our local food system, Slow Money is launching a Clearbon-powered crowdfunding solution for local food businesses. Previously as executive vice president for Retail Markets at Union Bank, Arno has experienced the "other side" of the financial system.
www.slowmoneynorcal.org | www.bernalbucks.org

Shahbano Imran & David Talloppow
Founders — LocalOn
Session — New community-building tech innovation presented by LocalOn
David and Shahbano are recent graduates from Boston College and formerly software engineers at companies like Rackspace and M86 Security. They've teamed up with the *East Bay Express* to create the largest online all-indie business directory (the first of its kind) and also provide simple yet powerful marketing tools to merchants and business associations. This unique collaboration between local merchants, associations, and local media continues to fuel the effort towards promoting local spending and revitalizing the local economy.
shahbano@localon.com and david@localon.com | www.localon.com

Jenny Kassan
CEO — Cutting Edge Capital
Sessions — Crowdfunding for local (food) economies and Worker cooperatives, cornerstone of a just and sustainable economic development
Jenny Kassan is an attorney specializing in social ventures and crowdfunding. She is CEO of Cutting Edge Capital which helps small businesses raise community capital and pioneers tools for a more inclusive economy. Sustainable communities, and healthy ecosystems. She is also the managing director of Kalkovich & Kassan Law Group, a law firm that serves social enterprise.
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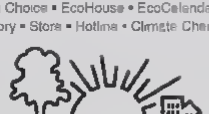
Andy Katz
Director — East Bay Municipal Utility District
Session — Sustainable communities: advancing clean energy, water efficiency, and smart growth in the East Bay
Andy Katz was elected to the East Bay Municipal Utility District Board of Directors in 2006. He is an advocate for increasing water conservation and recycling, clean energy initiatives at EBMUD and worked to expand lifeline rates to low-income households and to protect tenants from foreclosure-related service termination. Andy has a Bachelor of Arts and Master of City Planning Degree from UC Berkeley and works as an environmental attorney advocating for clean air, energy and public health, and is former chair of Sierra Club California.
akatz@ebmud.com | www.andykatz.net

Erin Kilmer-Neal
Program Officer — One PacificCoast Foundation
Session — Localization movement: the economic argument for keeping it local
At the foundation Erin has the opportunity to work on a variety of inspiring activities including building new alternatives to predatory financial services and supporting small businesses and artists through a local online shopping portal and the annual Oakland Indie Awards event. Erin is passionate about the power of supporting local independent businesses and artists to build healthy and equitable communities. To that end, she co-founded Oakland Grown. Oakland Unwrapped and the Oakland Indie Awards and serves on the boards of directors for the Sustainable Business Alliance, Oakland Merchants Leadership Forum (OMLF), and the American Independent Business Alliance (AMIBA). Prior to her current work, Erin was Program Manager at California Resources and Training (CART) and spent several years working in technology training, instructional design and graphic design most recently as a Manager of Web Information Design at Oracle Corporation. Erin has a Master of City Planning from MIT, a Master of Education in Educational Media and Computing from Arizona State University.
ekilmer@onepcf.org | www.onecalfoundation.org

Kasper Koczab
Staff — Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives (NoBAWC)
Session — Worker cooperatives, sustainable economic development
With a BA in Social Cultural Anthropology, Kasper is interested in studying and developing organizational models and economic frameworks that respect human dignity, uphold social justice, and provide sound environmental stewardship. His work with NoBAWC focuses on developing projects that illuminate the worker cooperative model as a practical alternative to some of the most profound problems embodied in mainstream business structures. He is also the founder of a coop-in-the-making, CITYtown, where they make the world smaller one neighborhood at a time.
kasper@nobawc.org | www.nobawc.org



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Yoni Landau
Co-Founder and Chief Evangelist — CoFED (Cooperative Food Empowerment Directive)
Session — The nonprofit industrial complex, cooperatives, and how to include your friends in the (food) revolution
Yoni has been a fellow of the New Leaders Council, spoken at conferences like the Slow Money National Gathering, and been featured as Huffington Post's "Greatest Person of the Day." After launching a successful campaign to prevent the first fast food chain from opening at UC Berkeley, he helped raise over $120,000 for a cooperative alternative, the Berkeley Student Food Collective. He loves to cook vegetables in his Bay Area kitchen and enjoys improv theater singing, and smiling.
yoni@cofed.org | www.cofed.org

Hut Landon
Executive Director -- San Francisco Locally Owned Merchants Alliance (SFLOMA) and Northern California Independent Booksellers Association (NCIBA)
Session — Localization movement: the economic argument for keeping it local
Hut Landon has been the executive director of NCIBA for 16 years and volunteer head of SFLOMA for six years. He owned Landon Books in Mill Valley for 14 years, prior to that, he was the assistant publisher of the *Pacific Sun* alternative weekly newspaper covering Marin County.
hut@nciba.com | www.sfloma.org | www.nciba.com

Guillaume Lebleu
Bernal Bucks
Session — Complementary and alternative currencies to the US dollar
Guillaume Lebleu is co-founder of Clearbon, which has piloted Bernal Bucks, a neighborhood payment card and rewards program in San Francisco. He spent most of his career as an entrepreneur helping retail financial institutions leverage technology to improve and create new customer experiences. He writes about the future of money at lebleu.org and twitter @gyom.
gyom@bernalbucks.org | www.bernalbucks.org | www.lebleu.org

Mike Leung
Lead Organizer — Proposed Worker Cooperative Federal Credit Union
Session — 21st century banking models
Mike Leung is currently organizing a proposed credit union to finance worker cooperatives in collaboration with the US Federation of Worker Cooperatives, Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives, and North American Students of Cooperation (WorkerCoopFCU.org). He is also the founder of AbolishHumanRentals.org which advocates for workers' rights to self governance and business ownership.
leungms@gmail.com | www.WorkerCoopFCU.org

Kelly Levilen
Marketing/Operations Manager — Working Solutions
Session — Financing your small business
Kelly Levilen joined the Working Solutions team in 2010. Before Working Solutions, she served as a Trade Assistant at the United States Foreign Commercial Service helping small businesses export their products abroad. At Working Solutions, Kelly is the marketing and operations manager, handling all day-to-day operations, strategic planning, and marketing and PR.
kelly@theworkingsolutions.org | www.theworkingsolutions.org

Mira Luna
Coordinator — Bay Area Community Exchange Timebank
Session — Complementary and alternative currencies to the US dollar
Mira Luna is an alternative economic activist, organizer, researcher and writer with a wide range of experience in transformative economic projects and a focus on community currency systems. She is the founder and coordinator of

Bay Area Community Exchange Timebank community connector for Community Living Campaign writer and adviser for Shareable net, co-founder of Just Alternative Sustainable Economics, volunteer for the Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives. She serves on the board of the US Solidarity Economy Network and the San Francisco Community Land Trust and was formerly co-coordinator of the San Francisco Really Really Free Market.
mira@sfbace.org | www.bace.org

Carolina Miranda
Founder — Cultivating Capital
Session — Localization movement: the economic argument for keeping it local
Carolina Miranda is the founder of Cultivating Capital, a certified B Corporation specializing in helping small business owners go green and market their business online. She is a Green Business Consultant with the Alameda County Green Business Program and is a Board Member of the Sustainable Business Alliance. She holds an MBA in Sustainable Enterprise from Dominican University.
Carolina@cultivatingcapital.com | www.cultivatingcapital.com

Mark McLeod
Executive Director — Sustainable Business Alliance of Oakland/Berkeley
Session — Campaign finance reform: the single most important campaign
Mark has been working as a community organizer with a number of indie business associations for the last six years, all focused on building vibrant, local living economies. The most effective way we can build a healthy world, Mark believes, is to build the health of the community or communities of which we are daily members. We must always be "Thinking Local First," and creating behavior modification tools which encourage all community members to do the same.
sustainoaklandmcleod@gmail.com | www.sustainablebusinessalliance.org

Sean Murphy
COO — Inner City Advisors
Session — Financing your small business
As Chief Operating Officer, Sean ensures Inner City Advisors' capacity to fulfill its mission of growing high impact entrepreneurs and creating quality inner city jobs by leading the delivery of quality services, high caliber consulting, advice entrepreneurship education, and smart capital investments. Sean has directed capital investments ranging from $100K to $5M in the form of debt and equity for ICA Companies through strategic partnerships with local community banks, equity firms and angel investors. Under Sean's leadership, ICA manages a total of $145M in small business revenues through a Mission Profit™ discipline and a genuine interest in investing in mission-first people to achieve key results.
sean@innercityadvisors.org | www.innercityadvisors.org

Jessica Nowlan
Founder -- Hope Solutions, Member — Oakland Grown
Session — Complementary and alternative currencies to the US dollar
Jessica Nowlan is an Oakland resident, Bay Area native, and founder of Hope Solutions. Jess co-started Hope Solutions in 2010 with the goal of strengthening the local economy in Oakland and helping small businesses thrive. The idea for Hope Solutions came to Jessica after working as an independent sales agent. In the payments industry and learning first hand how frustrating the industry can be for small business owners. Using her industry experience along with her passion for the community and background in social justice work, she started Hope Solutions – combining commerce, marketing strategies, and consultative support to help strengthen small business.
jessican@hopesolutionsms.com | www.hopesolutionsms.com

Janelle Orsi
Director — Sustainable Economies Law Center; Co-Author — The Sharing Solution
Session — Visualizing a sharing economy: a cartoon guide to the policies and practices that are paving or blocking the way
Janelle Orsi is a "sharing lawyer" based in Berkeley specializing in helping communities share housing and cars, form cooperatives, launch urban farms and form social enterprises. She is also the director of the Sustainable Economies Law Center in Oakland. She is co-author of *The Sharing Solution: How to Save Money, Simplify Your Life & Build Community* (Nolo Press 2009) and the forthcoming book *Sharing Law: The Legal Landscape of the New Economy* (ABA Books 2012)
Janelle Orsi@gmail.com | www.theSELC.org | www.JanelleOrsi.com | www.SharingSolution.com

Esther Park
Vice President, Strategy & Business Development — RSF Social Finance
Session — Alternative banking models, public banks, worker cooperative banks, and progressive banking practices
Esther joined RSF in 2005 and is the vice president for Strategy and Business Development. She is responsible for the strategic development of the organization, the expansion of its products and services, and what RSF Social Finance affectionately refers to as "the how" of what they do.
esther park@rsfsocialfinance.org | www.rsfsocialfinance.org

Mike Paunovich
Videographer/Filmmaker
Session — Laughter Against the Machine: a documentary film preview and discussion
Mike Paunovich is a Bay Area filmmaker, new media artist, and social activist interested in exploring the intersection of art and technology. Mike has freelanced for many Fortune 500 companies and local Bay Area small businesses. He served on the board of the Sustainable Business Alliance and contributed to the development of East Bay Green Tours. Mike is a leading member of the competitive filmmaking team If Donned On Me and is currently co-producing a feature length documentary for the comedy trio Laughter Against the Machine.

Charlie Rebich
Steering Committee — Oakland ACORN currency project / Oakland Grown
Session — Complementary and alternative currencies to the US dollar
Charlie Rebich is an alternative currency advocate and volunteer with Oakland Grown and the Oakland ACORN currency project. He has a background in history, economics and spiritual philosophy and worked with Stefan Belgin and Richard Lietaer on their new book *New Money for a New World*.
charlierebich@gmail.com | www.oaklandacornmcurrency.com

Mary Rick
VP Marketing and Community — The Hoop Fund
Session -- Crowdfunding for local (food) economies
Mary spent the past decade advising, promoting, and launching community-based business networks, enterprising nonprofits and national green business communities. She served as a director for Global Exchange, the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies and the Investors' Circle. The Hoop Fund offers a crowdfunding platform for small-scale producers and wants to help launch your next community fundraiser!
mary@hoopfund.com | www.hoopfund.com

Renee Rivera
Executive Director -- East Bay Bicycle Coalition
Session — Bikenomics: how biking will save the planet, our pocketbooks, and our local economy
Renee leads the East Bay Bicycle Coalition (EBBC) as its new executive director after many years as a volunteer, board member and most recently acting executive director at the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition. Renee has a background in nonprofit financial management and administration, and worked for many years at the Exploratorium in San Francisco. Her position as executive director at the EBBC allows her to bring her management, financial and administrative experience to bear on her passion for bicycling and bicycle advocacy.
renee@ebbc.org | www.ebbc.org

Scott Rossi
Media Committee of Correspondence Member Occupy San Francisco
Session — Why Occupy changes everything and how to join with Occupy to build powerful coalitions for change
Scott Rossi is a 31 year-old Pennsylvania native who has called California "Home" for the last 4 years. He worked as a supervisor for a small online retailer in San Francisco by day and as a Media and Committee of Correspondence Member at OccupySF by night. He decided to check out the SF version of Occupy Wall Street one early October morning and things have never been the same.
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Kirsten Schwind
Program Director — Bay Localize
Session — When the economy's rotten, sell compost: transforming ecological crisis into community opportunities
Kirsten authored Bay Localize's popular *Community Resilience Toolkit*, and co-authored *Tapping the Potential of Urban Rooftops*, which won an award from the American Planning Association's California Chapter. Kirsten is deeply involved in local energy policy and formerly served as the chair of the City of Berkeley's Energy Commission. She also has worked extensively in food systems and international trade policy at other nonprofit groups, including as program director at Food First, and once served as shop steward for her union. Kirsten worked for several years in Latin America in human rights and the environment, and is fluent in Spanish. She holds a B.A. in Economics and Public Policy and an M.S. in Natural Resources Management, and lives in Oakland.
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Nancy Skinner
Assemblymember, Representing the 14th District — State of California
Session — Sustainable communities: advancing clean energy, water efficiency and smart growth in the East Bay
Nancy Skinner was first appointed Chair of the Assembly's Natural Resources Committee and currently Chairs the Assembly Rules Committee. Nancy brings to the Assembly experience as a Berkeley City Councilmember, authoring the first Styrofoam ban in the US, and as a member of the East Bay Regional Park District Board, small business owner, and founder of the International Association Local Governments for Sustainability. Nancy has an extensive background in climate change, coordinated the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign and the 2005 Summit between CEOs, which included Governor Schwarzenegger and UK Prime Minister Blair, and which helped lead to the signing of California's Global Warming Solutions Act. As a legislator, Nancy Skinner is perhaps best known for her E-Fairness bill requiring Amazon and other Internet retailers to collect sales tax — legislation that is expected to bring California up to $500 million in new revenue. In the Assembly, Nancy has also authored legislation to increase solar energy use, improve the energy efficiency of homes and businesses, make food stamps more accessible to all eligible families, and expand awareness of the Earned Income Tax Credit–federal dollars that could put needed cash into the households of over 800,000 eligible Californians.
(510) 286-1400 | www.asmdc.org/members/a14

Susan Silber
Executive Director — Buy Local Berkeley
Session — The Localization movement: the economic argument for keeping it local
Susan is a 20-year veteran of community organizing and environmental education and just began her work with Buy Local Berkeley earlier this month. Susan has created a number of successful projects, including co-founding Transition Berkeley, the Acterra's Climate Action Groups (now housed at the Ecology Center), the Green Star Schools program and the Y Bike program with the Presidio YMCA. She has also worked with Hostelling International, the U.S. Peace Corps, North Bay Conservation Corps, Green Schools Initiative and a number of other organizations.
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Karianne Steele
Labor Lawyer — Weinberg, Roger & Rosenfeld
Session — Unions in the new economy
Ms. Steele is labor lawyer at Weinberg, Roger & Rosenfeld in Alameda, a law firm which offers its skills and expertise to the labor movement by representing workers' unions and employee benefit plans. She represents primarily public sector unions in California and Nevada, focusing on internal union governance and management, contract negotiations and enforcement, administrative hearings, arbitration, litigation, and training of union leaders. Prior to working as a labor lawyer, Ms. Steele supported through journalism and participation in civil disobedience, an effort to eliminate the unjust contracting-out of dining service work at a University of California campus; served as a head steward of her graduate student union; organized fellow workers at a luxury hotel in Santa Monica; and assisted the staff at her college with their union drive.
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Jonathan B. Steiger
Partner, Hanson Bridgett, LLP
Session — Corporation: a better way to do business
Jonathan represents entities and their investors in connection with business and intellectual property transactions, including formation, finance, contracts, licenses, joint development agreements, mergers and acquisitions, intellectual property licenses, e-commerce, technology-related matters, and general corporate law. Jonathan also represents nonprofits, trade associations, and standards-setting organizations. He has a special affinity for, and expertise in, social entrepreneurship enterprises.
jsteiger@hansonbridgett.com | www.hansonbridgett.com

Woody Tasch
Founder and Chairman — Slow Money
Session — Slow Money: investing as if food, farms, and fertility matter
Woody Tasch is founder and chairman of Slow Money, a 501(c)3 nonprofit formed in 2008 to catalyze the flow of investment capital to small food enterprises and to promote new principles of fiduciary responsibility to support sustainable agriculture and the emergence of a restorative economy. Tasch is chairman emeritus of Investors' Circle, a nonprofit network of investors that has facilitated the flow of $150 million to 230 sustainability-minded early stage companies and venture funds. For most of the 1990s Woody was Treasurer of the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, where he pioneered mission-related investing. He is an experienced venture-capital investor and entrepreneur; he has served on numerous for-profit and nonprofit boards, and was founding chairman of the Community Development Venture Capital Alliance, which supports venture investing in economically disadvantaged regions. In 2010, *Utne Reader* named Woody one of "25 Visionaries Who Are Changing Your World." His book *Inquiries Into the Nature of Slow Money* is published by Chelsea Green.
www.slowmoney.org

Elizabeth Ü
Founder and Executive Director — Finance for Food
Session — Crowdfunding for local (food) neonamies
Elizabeth Ü is founder and executive director of Finance for Food, a nonprofit which develops written materials, workshops, conference tracks, and other educational opportunities to help sustainable food system entrepreneurs identify and secure values-aligned financing. She is currently writing *Finance for Food: A Sustainable Food Entrepreneur's Guide to Raising Mission-Aligned Capital*; this groundbreaking guide will help entrepreneurs with food-based businesses navigate the complex and ever-evolving financing landscape, increasing access to capital for food ventures that solve social and environmental problems. Elizabeth's previous professional roles contributed to the strategic development of organizations including RSF Social Finance, the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE) and Slow Money, which was then a project of Investors' Circle.
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Alejandro Velez
Co Founder — Back to the Roots and Founder The Sage Mentorship Project
Session — Financing your small business
Alejandro Velez is co-founder of Back to the Roots a 100% sustainable urban mushroom farm that transforms coffee ground waste into the growing medium for gourmet mushrooms mushroom kits and provides sustainable DIY products for families and kids Velez is also founder and board chairman of the largest UC Berkeley nonprofit organization The Sage Mentorship Project Inc. a 1 000+ member mentoring program that creates individual, one-on-one pairings between UC Berkeley mentors and low-income Berkeley and Oakland elementary school students. Velez is a May 2003 summa cum laude graduate of UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business with a degree in business administration and a minor in education Prior to changing career paths when he co-founded Back to the Roots on his last semester in college Velez had worked as a summer financial investment banking analyst at various financial services institutions and a telecom company including Citigroup UBS Morgan Stanley and Qualcomm Velez was born in Medellin Colombia
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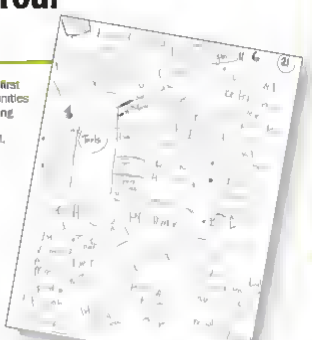
Al Weinrub
Coordinator — Local Clean Energy Alliance
Session — Economic development for our communities: the potential of decentralized energy systems
Al Weinrub has served as coordinator of the Local Clean Energy Alliance since 2010 organizing regular Alliance meetings planning our annual Clean Power Healthy Communities conference recruiting new members and assisting with policy development and campaign implementation efforts He authored *Community Power: Decentralized Renewable Energy in California* has conducted energy policy briefings for a number of organizations serves on the Sierra Club California Energy-Climate Committee, and is a past national officer and member the National Writers Union UAW Local 1981, AFL-CIO He lives in Oakland
al.weinrub@comcast.net | www.localcleanenergy.org

David Kant Wofford
Program Associate — Bay Localize
Session — When the economy's rotten, sell compost: transforming ecological crisis into community opportunities
Born and raised in Oakland David got his start in community development at an early age working in the respective offices of John George, Wilson Riles, Jr. and Chappell Hayes While being mentored and working under these pioneering leaders, David became deeply involved in regional planning and policy development. Combining his real world experience with his Masters In Community Development and background in city and regional planning David seeks to use his skills to build community and bring people together across ethnic economic, social and other cultural lines He enjoys camping, being outdoors and connecting youth to nature. David's vision is one of greater citizen participation in the design of more of more resilient communities David is currently completing his PhD in mythology
david@baylocalize.org | www.baylocalize.org

Timothy R. Yeo
President — Green Retirement Plans, Inc.
Session — Corporation, a better way to do business
Timothy has been an active leader in the financial services industry for more than 22 years focusing on sustainable and responsible retirement planning. His extensive experience includes being Vice President Bank of America as well as Branch Manager AXP T Rowe Price Walnut Creek Investor Center He is happy and humbled to be the advisor for the retirement plans of The Hog Island Oyster Co. in San Francisco Busboys and Poets in Washington D.C. and Jewish High School of Connecticut, amongst others He graduated with honors (cum laude) from the University of California at Berkeley Haas School of Business
timothy@greenretirement.com | www.greenretirement.com

Jay Youngdahl
President and Columnist — East Bay Express; Fellow — Initiative for Responsible Investment, Harvard University; Partner — Youngdahl & Citti, P.C.
Sessions — The new sustainable theory of investing and Unions in the new economy
Jay Youngdahl is a Fellow at the Initiative for Responsible Investment, Harvard University where he works on the theory and practice of responsible investment. He is a frequent speaker on the topic and recently published a piece in the Responsible Investor on the importance of Investment Beliefs. Jay is on the Executive Committee of the Trustee Leadership Forum for Retirement Security is Fund Counsel to a number of multi-employer employee benefit funds, and is an Independent trustee on the Middletown Works Health and Welfare VEBA. During Jay's life he was a union member organizer officer and lawyer In his legal practice he has represented nearly all union organizations and is a frequent writer on labor and union affairs. He is the author of the recent book on Navajo railroad workers *Working on the Railroad: Walking in Beauty*
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Share Your Ideas



Notes from the very first Progressive Opportunities brainstorming meeting between Jody Colley and Erin Kilmer Neel.

Share your notes at the conference

The East Bay Express staff sends our love to these people for helping in the realization of this event:
Winona Azure Alissa Barron Ed Crinch Susan Coss Jenny Kassan Erin Kilmer-Neel Kasper Koczab Marissa LaMagna Mark McLeod Mary Rick, Sharmila Singh

And the following organizations were helpful as well:
American Independent Business Alliance Bay Area Green Business Program Bay Area Green Tours Business Alliance for Local Living Economies Buy Local Berkeley City of Berkeley City of Oakland East Bay Green Drinks, Ecology Center Green Chamber of Commerce HUB Berkeley Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives (NoBAWC) Oakland Grown, Presidio Graduate School Rebuild the Dream SFLOMA, Sustainable Business Alliance


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RECENTLY REVIEWED

Kuruku

3256B Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-848-2758. Indonesia, the Japanese restaurants serving snacky items to munch on while you slowly linger and relax have been in full bloom here while in San Francisco. But in the East Bay, Kuruku owners Dalin and Sanae Satoi feel like pioneers of the form. That a nod to say they're walking purists — they add European, Chinese, and Korean flair to their stable of bar nibbles. This tiny spot has become a late-night favorite for off-work local chefs, hungry for diverse and compelling items like New Zealand lean sashimi, hole grain daikon, and sweet but bittersavager. But take caution: As with tapas, Kuruku's small plates can quickly add up to a big bill. $$

Pikunho's

25 W. Richmond Ave., Richmond, 510-237-7582. You'll need to gear up for a full night at Pikunho's, the East Bay's only continuous-service Brazilian churrascaria. For an eminently affordable fixed price, a fleet of revolving waiters carries you up nearly a dozen grilled meats at a breakneck pace. A few tips: Skip the hot buffet, drink plenty of water, and eat a little salad with your meat. The meat comes from genetically murky sources, and there's little consistency from cut to cut, but at these prices you should expect more of an adventure than a gourmet meal. $$

Red Buffalo

2995 Market St., Oakland, 510-834-8833. Deep in West Oakland's Ghost Town neighborhood sits this mysteriously named beer takeout spot, a mix of bullet proof glass and old timey kitsch decor. The wings are meaty, tender and full of meaty flavor not to mention large for a standard broiler hen. The sizzling hot wing, made with a combo of Trappey's fire sauce and fresh jalapeños, bonds you over with its intensity. The smoky chipotle wing is also a contender with a bit less vinegar in the sauce. Both hot wings have pepper pieces embedded in the skin, a nod to thoughtful preparation. The menu also includes a range of Philly cheesesteaks and a deep-fried Twinkie with chocolate and strawberry dipping sauce. $

Wing Town Cafe

1162 11th St., Oakland, 510-832-9464. Wing Town Cafe is a small family-owned wingery tucked into a ramshackle shopping plaza anchored by a Mi Pueblito supermarket. It may not offer pasture-raised, organic meat, but the fresh-not-frozen chicken doesn't give off any strange chemical artifice. The meat runs a little dry, but the skin has a pronounced crispness, browned on the edges. Lemon pepper is the top seller but the hot wing is solid, and the house wing is a custom blend of red sauce, a thick molasses barbecue, and garlic-infused ranch. Wing Town Cafe is not wholly successful. $

Lin Jia Asian Kitchen

3457 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-835-8123. Marcia Lam worked in her parents' Chinese takeout restaurant in Hayward for fifteen years, sliding her time until she could open a shop of her own using Mary's chickens, Niman beef, organic produce, and fresh seafood. Since Lin Jia is the result, a Chinese restaurant with globetrotting influences from Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and Thailand. Everything is fresh and handmade, prepared, and you won't feel the blast of cheap takeout, but the freshest Lin Jia sometimes feels lacking in gravitas. Make sure to order the ethereal wonton soup and the Kau Kau, a decadent pork bun. $$

Petaluma Organic Cafe

1045 San Pablo Ave., Albany 510-528-2275. Petaluma Organic Cafe disproves commonly held beliefs about the flavorless nature of marshmallow food. Chef Tomma, a fifteen-year veteran of Shangri-La Cafe in North Oakland (formerly Marmarita and Organic Cafe) is so-owner and he's branching out from the stripped-down ouzos of his past. Everything is organic and vegan, and besides a few potato and beet digressions, also largely macrobiotic. More importantly the food is flavorful with mammoths like basil, ginger and garlic making the healthful fare more user-friendly for the unmutated. Similar to Shangri-La, the retail ing daily menu is an affordable prix fixe, with a balanced range of grains, soups, desserts, salads, and cooked veggies on each plate. $

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embroidered pillows at one of the low tables in the rug-lined dining area. Fine appetizers include the steamed pumpkin with yogurt and *harissa*, spicy potato-stuffed flatbread. From the main menu order kebabs, North Indian curries, and the *poisson*, spiced rice pilaf. $$

Shiraz

1911 San Ramon Valley Blvd. San Ramon, 925-819-5558. Even the words "Persian fare" conjure up poetry but Shiraz blends its romance with Western-friendly comfort food. The clean, well-lit restaurant specializes in succulent kebabs like the *koobideh* (ground beef and onion molded around the skewer) or *barg*, steak brushed with a potent marinade of onion juice and lemon. More adventuresome (or vegetarian) diners can try *gormeh sabzi*, an aromatic stew of kidney beans, herbs, and dried limes. $$

Turkish Kitchen

1986 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-540-6907. A wide selection of Middle Eastern delicacies are prepared and served in this bright, friendly Berkeley hangout. Lush eggplant salad, smoky baba ghanoush crisp-from-the-oven feta-spinach *borek*, succulent shish kebabs and a most-comforting *mouzaka* are among the menu's highlights, none of the three dishes (dry falafel, bad Turkish ravioli, perfunctory rice pudding) lack panache. Get the dreamy baklava and a strong cup of Turkish coffee for dessert. $$

Zaki Kabob House

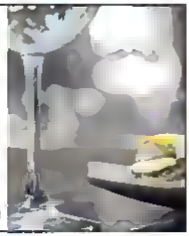
1108 San Pablo Ave., Albany 510-527-3400. The Ayyad family operated a deli on the site for 30 years before opening Zaki Kabob House two years ago — in a location that many locals considered "cursed" because so many other eateries at the address had failed. The Ayyads transformed it into a homey, picture-bedecked setting where they serve Levantine classics such as shawarma, tabouleh, kibbeh, and, of course, kebabs. The house specialty is rotisserie chicken, whose spice rub and marinade are closely held secrets of owner Ramzy Ayyad, a Palestinian mother. Vegans can choose from a range of selections, standouts include fava-bean salad, falafel burgers, baba ghanoush and Lebanese lentil rice *mujadara*. $

Zuzar

1981 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-841-1981. Walid and Kelly Majid are the heart and soul of this tiny, personal restaurant celebrating the land of the Mediterranean and Middle East. While keeping it as local friendly pleasant in Berkeley foodie culture they make their own yogurt, source hormone-free meat, and grow much of the produce in their backyard organic garden, but make no mistake, this is authentic Middle East fare. The food is simple, often delicious, and a bit pricey. Choose wines from a small but smartly chosen list. $$-$$$

Price Key
Assuming diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip 15 — up to $20 per person. $ — $10-$25 $$ — $25-$50; $$$ — more than $50

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LAST CALL

BECOMING PLINY

How a limited-edition beer from a small brewery came to be the best in the world — and whether it's worth the hype

By Ellen Cushing

An odd thing happened in downtown Berkeley last Friday, or at least odder than the kinds of things that normally happen in downtown Berkeley. Starting at around 4 p.m., a line began forming outside Bobby G's, the pizzeria-bar on University just below Shattuck, soon enough it would be past the door and up the street, and the crowd wouldn't fully dissipate for hours. The energy was like something you might see outside an amusement park or a super-trendy restaurant: feet and heads were craned to see how far the line was moving. Conversations moved between chirpy speculation and idle small talk in the way they only do when you're both bored and excited at the same time. They — we — were standing in line for Pliny the Younger, a Triple IPA from Santa Rosa's tiny Russian River Brewing Company. Also, possibly, the best beer in the world.

Or at least that's what BeerAdvocate decided in 2005, meaning this heretofore well-regarded but widely-unknown brewery in Northern California was now beating out not only all the big guys, but also the types of places where monks hand-brew beers out of, like, holy water and baby's tears. It was at some point shortly after that — according to co-owner Natalie Cilurzo — that things started to get crazy. The brewery soon became inundated with acolytes — some traveling from as far as Japan and Denmark — all itching to get some Pliny the Younger. It wasn't long before Russian River was forced to hire crowders because too many people were trying to hound it. These days, it's distributed — via kegs only — for less than a month each year, beginning the first Friday in February at Russian River's brewshop, warehouses Santa Rosa brewpub and in small quantities at select bars throughout the Western US thereafter. Most kegs go in less than a day, and many go in less than an hour.

For her part, Cilurzo sounded some combination of embarrassed and awestruck when describing the phenomenon over the phone last week. "We're just happy so many people like our beers," she said. "It's flattering, and it's exciting." It's also quite the object lesson as to how a beer can get launched to cult status — especially without the welter of, say, a massive marketing team, or even the active participation of the people making said fetish object. "It's funny. It's become sort of a collector's item," offered Steve Shapiro of the (fantastic) blog Beer In BART who waited in a four-hour line for the beer's penultimate release a couple weeks earlier at Russian River. "I think it's a combination of it being a great beer and a very limited quantity."

The quality is Russian River's own doing, as is the limited run — Pliny contains triple the hops of the brewery's standard IPA, and as such, it's expensive and labor-intensive to make — but the hype is entirely the product of external buzz. Cilurzo and her partner do what they can to manage the insanity, but at their core, they're a small local brewery unprepared — and it seems, uninterested — in becoming much more than what they are right now. But as food chatter blogs in general gain currency, and beer continues to be elevated from its frat boy depths to its crafty-goodness heights, there's more room — virtual, metaphorical and, outside Bobby G's on Friday, physical — for people to get excited about this stuff. Buzz has a way of multiplying and magnifying itself, and scarcity is perhaps the world's oldest and best driver of interest, so here we are, and there I was: late afternoon on a cold and overcast and thoroughly February day, standing outside Bobby G's, "I really underestimated what this meant to people," a bespectacled Berkeley undergrad marveled to his bros. Indeed.

The keg was to be tapped at 5 p.m. By 4:30 the line snaked up University and onto Shattuck, passersby headed either to gawk, gaggle, or simply ask what was going on after which they would commence with the gawking and/or giggling. Because, yes, if we're thinking about this objectively, it is patently ridiculous to stand outside in the cold for hours during the workday just for the privilege of buying a glass of beer, best in the world or not. (As Shapiro said, "As a phenomenon, it's both interesting and disturbing.")

But we're not obviously thinking about this objectively. We call people fans because they're fanatical. In that sense, waiting all year for a beer isn't so different from standing in line for a concert or a restaurant or an iPad. (Or just in contact another way: Pliny, at Bobby G's on Friday was only slightly longer than the line at Cheeseboard every day.) And at the same time, beer and brewing have only recently become trendy, and there's something satisfying about brewmasters — usually bearded and rubber-booted typically rooted in working-class and rural traditions rather than princes and lords — being treated as minor celebrities, and of beer releases being treated like record releases (in the pre-leak era, at least).

It was around 5:45 that I finally got mine, in a dainty ten-ounce glass and for a totally not insane $6. The taste was just as I'd heard it described: malty-happy piney-almost perfect, bitter but not overwhelmingly so exceptionally balanced, and, at nearly 11 percent ABV deceptively strong. I don't know if it was the best beer I've ever tasted — drinking a lot and remembering what you're drinking, tend to be at odds with each other — but it was really truly very good. Next year if you've got the time you should try it. ●



Pliny the Younger in all its glory Ellen Cushing

Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

FOOD & WINE

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North Wines: North Vanity Mondo Wine Tasting A celebration of Black-owned wineries in California with over 7 wineries. Black Wine beverage glass, and additional tastings. Sat. Feb. 25, 1-5 p.m. $125-$135. BlackandTasty.com/EventDetail/486/Black_Wine_Mondo_Wine_Tasting_Celebration_at_Oakland_Museum_of_California_Gardens_Gallery.com

Revolution, Coffee + Analog Wine Drink South Indian style bean-to-cup coffee and wine at a traditional function and lecture and listen to hours of record music on vinyl. Oakland Sat., 8-11 a.m. Canterbury Wines. Feb. 29. $3-$5 donation. Subterranean Subterranean, 1379 Fenwick Way, Oakland. SubterraneanOakland.org.

Oyster Crab Food Oakland the produce will Coolney Swim Team. RSVP produce. Sat., Feb. 25, 1:30 p.m. $45. 925-382-6600. PleasantHillRec.com. Crab Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-943-5652

Extra-Curricular Culinary Adventures: Wine from Where? Further Craftsmen at Hall produce Wine Co. discusses Croatia's indigenous Oakland wine Posip in Where Mall. Including Oakland wine, finger foods, and 20 percent off that evening's dinner at Thai. Sun., Feb. 26, 4-6 p.m. $65. 1045 Oakland Oakland area, Inland, 5996 College Ave., Oakland. 510-652-9000. 1045OakwoodLounge.com.

Night Night featuring watermelon Rose State of Page Hall Winery + family-owned food menu. Join for producing wine, and 10 percent of high-quality event. Call to RSVP Last Thursday of every month, 5-7 p.m. 322-925 Wente Vineyards Revolution, 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. 925-456-2450, WenteVineyards.com.

Food & Drinks Saturdays. Post Food produce Wine a wellness Blues on the disaster's exponential year, with weekly features in varying Blues. We Homemade Blues preservation Saturdays, 11 a.m.-noon. Yoga PhotoEssayHouse.org, North produce Farmers Market, Arlington Blanford Center Parking Lot, Oakland

Late Night Little Bites With benedictine ("little bites") baked eggs-and-cheese baked and fried prepared with cheese and at happy-hour prices, along with seasonal inspired wine and beer. Illustrative. Saturdays, 8-10:30 p.m. Rockwood, 25 produce St., produce. 510-444-1281, Rockwood.com.

Bites Blanford North Opening Celebrate the winery's newly Redwood St. Bonnie Ely Castro Blanford. Plus live music, tastes and artisanal food. Cabernet Sauvignon produce and many. 4 1515 Carnelian St., Berkeley. Sat. Feb. 25, 2-5 p.m., $7-$18. 925-963-4600, LuisCeldon.com.

Monday Night Night Night featuring five 5-ounce pours of Guest that Bonn with a free dish sure to matching the artisan Night. North by Bites and Blissfully Memorials. 2 p.m. BonnBrewStation, 444 3rd St., Oakland. 510-452-2387. Bonn Revolution.com.

Welcome Day and Soul Food Soul A Black monthly Month celebration at the school's Airport. Wall., Feb. 20, 12-2 p.m., free.

Berkeley City College, 2050 Center St., Oakland. 510-981-2020. Peralta.edu.

Fall Arts Girls A weekly food truck gathering on Shattuck Avenue at Rose Street, Berkeley. Wednesdays, 5-9 p.m.

Montlake Bites Tasting Weekly Saturdays, Sundays, 1-5 p.m. free. Granite Cellars, 1401 63rd St., Emeryville, 510-428-7156, LittleJoeCellars.com.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Oakland Farmers Granite With freshly grown fruits and vegetables, plus family Oakland Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. PCPMA.com. Alameda Farmers' Market, Height Ave. at Webster St., Alameda.

Oakland Farm North Grand Community Oakland North Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands, donated overstock eggs, barbecues, Lunchtime, 3:30-6:30 p.m., free, 510-848-1704, EatingCenter.org. Bay Area produce Institute for Advancement (319 Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-525-1483 BAIA.org.

Bayfield Granite Farmers' Granite Fresh produce supplied by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Bayfield Center, 1535 E. 14th St. San Leandro. 510-357-8000. BayfieldCare.com

Oakland Granite Farm Black Granite Community produce Granite Farm Black Granite Community produce's tables Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in farmers-produce neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. free. 510-848-1704. EatingCenter.org. Farmers Market Community Center, San Pablo Ave., 2990 30th St., Berkeley. 510-981-5450. G Berkeley CA US

Fruitvale Farmers' Granite With locally grown and produced fruit, vegetables, North products and more produce WIC and EBT Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-535-8979. Fruitvale Village, 3411 E. 12th St., in Fruitvale BART). Berkeley 510-534-3900. LimeCrew.org.

Grand Lake Oakland Granite The monthly market hosts more than 70 produce purveyors, fresh and arts and crafts. Oakland Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. free. 800-861-3276, GrandLakeFarmersMarket.org. Splash Pad Park Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave. produce. 419-238-7275, thehandfarm.com/Parks/Parks/Default.asp.

Hayward City Hall Farmers' Granite A farmers' market featuring locally grown and produced Bloss from more 20 producers and specialty food purveyors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. 800-657-3176, AgriculturalInstitute.org. Hayward City Hall Plaza, 111 B St., Hayward. 510-886-4900, D.Hayward CA US.

Fairview Permanente Hayward Farmers' Granite With vendors selling locally grown California produce at the most endeared to the hospital Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., free. PCPMA.com. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Bastet With vendors selling fresh, affordable fruits and vegetables, Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. PCPMA.com. Kaiser Oakland, 280 Hawe St., Oakland.

Kensington Farmers Granite With a nursery, Bella Flowers, an organic chocolatier, free products, fresh-ground fruits and vegetables, nuts, butters, bread, and more. The market also hosts live music and entertainment. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 510-847-3851, KensingtonFarmersMarket.org. Oakland Circle, at the Colusa Circle Kensington.

Lafayette Market Farmers' Granite With certified organic produce from 30 organic farms and a growing number of producers to make the Purple Lawn Cafe Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 510-428-1456, FoodCommunityCulture.org. Laurel Granite Farmers' Granite 4173 Redwood Blvd. Oakland.

Mountain Village Sunpower Market Featuring organic produce and seasonal Bread, Free parking in Village garage at the top of La Salle Avenue Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. MontclairVillage.com/farmers_market. New Downtown Montclair Village. La Salle and Mariger Aves. Oakland

North Monterey Farmers Market With breads, specialty foods, all-organic produce and more for sale, along with special programs and events. WIC and EBT accepted Tuesdays, 3-6 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EatingCenter.org. Bay Oakland Ave. at Bonita St., Berkeley.

North Oakland Downtown Oakland Center Farmers Granite with produce and other produce sold by more than ten vendors. Oakland Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lake Anthony College Oakland, and many Also Celebrates produce lamps, produce WIC and EBT Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. PhelanNeighborhood.org. North Berkeley Farmers' Granite Arlington Medical Center Parking Lot Oakland Old Oakland Oakland Market Granite seasonal produce breads and other organic products, along with plenty of Monday Fridays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Old Oakland Farmers Market, 9th St. Oakland Broadway and Clay St., Oakland. Jones@Ingleside.org. every markets, old-oakland.

Pacific Coast Oak Harbor Square Farmers Market With seasonal produce grown, fruits, freshly baked treats, Produce, nut, flowers, and more, and more. Check out the music and arts and crafts festivals. Monday 9 a.m.-2 p.m. free. PCPMA. 1401 Harbor Bay Parkway, Alameda. 510-769-1149, Berkeley, Oakland

Richmond Farmers' Granite With fresh, locally grown fruit, live chickens, flowers, eggs, and other produce WIC and SNAP accepted. Thursdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. RichmondFarmersMarket.org. Richmond Oakland Granite 24th St. and Grand Ave., Richmond.

Saturday Granite Farmers Granite With fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty Bloss and more for sale, plus music programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EatingCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. 510-981-5450. G Berkeley CA US/Oakland. Display.aspx?id=12810.

Temescal Farmers Granite California northern farmers offer seasonal produce, dried fruits and nuts, fresh-caught eggs, baked goods, locally-caught fish and artisanal Bloss, and many Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. 510-764-7280. 4800 Pyrene Ltd., 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Berkeley prepared Oakland Granite Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty Bloss, and more for sale. Tuesdays, 2-6 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EatingCenter.org. Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley

Youth-Led Farm Stand The Bonn Brew Station, at the heart of the Foothill Square neighborhood, features seasonal produce from regional farmers and select urban gardens, along with bulk dry goods and nutrition-packed smoothies. At 10720 Bonn Brew Blvd., Oakland. Noodles, 3-6 p.m., free. FoodCommunityCulture.com.

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PICK

Black History Month Wine Dinner

Uptown Oakland eatery Padin (2369 Broadway) caps off Black History Month with a Three Day Feb. 28 with Up Bonn Estates Wine Dinner, pairing Southern inspired dishes such as watercress/duck-sausage salad and grilled harissa marinated California squab with selections from Bonn Estates wine of the world's few African-American-owned wineries. In a located east



o Ruth Napa Valley, where the property is passed Elegant trending in

1989 Bonn Estates Winery Picnic Restaurant
— *Annell Ryan*

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MOVIES

ANTIQUE MODERNISM, ANYONE?

Back to the future: silently, at the Pacific Film Archive

By Kelly Vance

Here it is 2012 and we're still watching silent movies in black and white. From 1918. And with Danish subtitles yet. Such are the nooks and crannies of the shared entertainment experience in the Bay Area that the San Francisco Silent Film Festival is one of the most popular and successful movie events of the year.

Lately, the Silent Film Festival — in a marketing move that's been adopted by more and more film fests — has been offering special one-offs outside its usual July perimeters. The prime example in the upcoming American presence of the full restoration of Abel Gance's 1927 masterpiece "Napoleon" booked for two weekends at Oakland's Paramount Theatre beginning March 24. But there's also a new package of old silents, "Dizzy Heights: Silent Cinema & Life in the Air," co-presented by the Pacific Film Archive and the Silent Film Festival, which begins on Thursday at the PFA (2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley; 510-642-1412; BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu).

As the title suggests, the unifying theme of "Dizzy Heights" is thin: then new science of aeronautics, and how the narrative and visual concepts of human-engineered flight found them way into the consciousness of early filmmakers. Fatrank Film a doctoral Film and Media student at UC Berkeley, evidently inated the long-day- ten-film mini-series with on eye toward melding the then avant-garde ideas of cinema and manned flight in a neat artistic package. But it works just as well as a grimmand antique schmuckfest.

Holger-Madsen's *A Trip to Mars* (original title: Himmelskibet; on Sky, Ship) is frankly silly. The 1918 Danish production pinks up



French spy yam *The Mystery of the Eiffel Tower* was filmed in real time, with no CGI

where film pioneer Georges Méliès left off by showing the misadventures of an intrepid explorer named Avanti. Pleonterus (Gunnar Tolnæs) who organizes a voyage to the Red Planet aboard the dirigible *Excelsior* in which he and his crew dine on china plates. Avanti is obviously a bit crack-brained, and the project has its problems. At home Professor Dubois (Frederick Jacobsen) rethinks the venture, and once in space, a boisterous crew member named David Dane (Svend Kornbech) takes to whiskey and commits a short-lived mutiny.

But all that intergetting once the ship lands on Mars. The planet's inhabitants, who very much resemble the folks back on Earth, dress in long, flowing robes...speak a universal language and eat only vegetables. They also have abolished warfare and practice Martian love under the Tree of Longing. They're so — evolved. It isn't long before the earthlings trade their smart leather flying suits for white tunic-and-skirt ensembles and go native. For Capt. Avanti this happens when he encounters the pretty peace ambassador Maraya (Lilly Jacobson), a sort of outer-space Duncan dancer who agrees to become Mrs. Avanti and to relocate to Denmark with her new husband. Bridal chamber on the spacecraft Peace and love in Europe at long last! *A Trip to Mars* screens on Thursday, February 23, at 7 p.m. with live musician Bruce Loeb and an introduction by Mark Sandberg.

Dizzy Heights: Silent Cinema & Life in the Air
February 23-26 at the Pacific Film Archive

Of course, there is nothing quite as foolish as outdated sci-fi. But *High Treason* a 1929 British thriller by director Maurice Elvey...at least has the advantage of a reasonably coherent plot — with echoes from the recent past (Fritz Lang's 1927 *Metropolis*) as well on the future (*Things to Come*, *Film-teen Eighty-Four*) in its story of organized pacifists staging anvil disobedience in order to halt an impending world war between the Federated States of Europe and the Atlantin States (aka the USA) in the far-off year of 1930.

Amid Soviet style montage in a scale-modeled London, Dr. Seymour (Hunt)berst on Wright) and his headstrong daughter Evelyn (Benita Hinnn) of the "unpatriotic" World League of Peace oppose the war hysteria promoted by a cabal of arms merchants. One again, as in *A Trip to Mars*, tight black leather or military uniforms are the fashion at the future — the Peace League members however are all white. The crucial moment occurs when the female workforce of a munitions plant stages a factory takeover and storms an aerodrome to avert the conflict, impressing army officer Michael Deane (Jameson Thomas). Evelyn's world be boyfriend. Best exchange of dialogue, in a discussion on the likelihood of war: "People today are much too sensible." "That's what they said in 1914." *High Treason* was released in both silent and sound versions, but obviously the Silent Film Festival is only interested in the former. It screens on Friday, February 24, at 7 p.m. with live accompaniment by Peter Chapman.

The treat of the series is probably Julien Duvivier's *The Mystery of the Eiffel Tower*, a very rare 1927 French spy yarn greatly enlivened by its Parisian location work, including a thrilling denouement with fires chasing spies up the girders of the tall tourist attraction, in real then with no CGI. Actor Félicien Tramel portrays a patriotic lamerely conjoined twerne who exchange identities in order to foil the plot of yet another sinister cabal. The Ku Klux Eiffel who wear hand-hooded regalia (à la the American Ku Klux Klan but also harking back to Christian inquisitors) and who are somehow jamming Paris' radio transmissions from the secret room mad post (built in 1889) at the top of the Eiffel Tower.

Le mystère de la tour Eiffel written by Alfred Machard, reportedly influenced George Remi aka Herge, the inventor of the Tintin adventures and that's certainly believable — the action careens from Paris to a mountain castle, with *heeenough* on aerial shots as well as stunt flying biplanes. This print being shown by the EYE Film Institute Netherlands with Dutch subtitles and live English translation. Ralph Carney and the Sensous Jass Project provide live musical accompaniment.

The series finishes down on Sunday, February 26 with a compilation of familiar and not-so-familiar silent shorts on the same themes of flights of fancy, including both the Edwin S. Porter (1906) and the Winsor McCay (1921) versions of *Tin Dream of a Rarebit Fiend*. Walter Wright's *Dizzy Hearts and Darling Hearts* (1916) and Méliès' *The Conquest of the Pole* from 1912. Should be a soft landing to reality.

Kelly Vance@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com and scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by J.R. Jones (J.J.), Ben Sachs (B.S.) and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at this end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Eli-ten Cushing@EastBayExpress.com.

OPENING

Bloodsworth Michael Rhodenbarsky, once Bobbie's defiant mum, was a plastic technocratic "wigwam" who made millions in the oil business in the Wild West gangster-businessman days of the 1900s when that person was transitioning from entertainment to capitalism. Now he's locked up as a Siberian prison. This alternator documentary by neither filmmaker Cyril Lusak shows how that happened. But inevitably with such a migratory subject halfway through it turns into a story about the doc quits and its maker, digging too passive for comfort into the real source of power in movies. It's still in the Kremlin. (Roxie) **[[[1/2 stars]]]**

Tyler Perry's Good Deeds Comedy about a high-powered businessman played by writer-director Perry, who falls for a member of his office cleaning crew (Gabrielle Union). **[[[[1/2 stars]]]**

Wanderlust Newly unemployed, a Manhattan yuppie (Paul Rudd and another American) takes up the hippie experiment with the way the rest of the world lives. Directed by David Wain; Rudd's by Mitch and Kurt Markus, also starring Malin Ackerman. **[[[[1/2 stars]]]**

RECOMMENDED

11 September Visuals develops when a female housemaid (caregiver named Rinah (Sarah Bayat) arrives at the home of a foreign family with enough counter already to help mother husband and father Hader (Peyman Moadi) take care of the sick father of Alzheimer's patient. Lyric can quite the horror and the new employee have multicolorous other issues with their families, problems that require adjudication by the civil/religious authorities. And as writer-director Najafi formed sets up a meandering, genre-smashing, ultimately worthwhile tape of contemporary Iranian other life, very much in the style of early Abbas Kiarostami, in which every single step of mildest resolution meets with a determined counter proposal. Brilliantly constructed but may lead to "Wanderlust." **[[[1/2 stars]]]** (K.V.)

The Wanderlust of Twilla Jo Steven Spielberg and Meryl Streep fighting guerrilla racists (look character Tilda Swinton were Malin Ackerman from the inventive title sequence to actor Andy Garcia) swings as eccentric/lovable rebelling Captain Rainbow in Terrio's spectacular Scheherazade serial parable in the Arab town of the wonderful "Seeking Haven" because this smashing motion-capture-animated feature is the youthful English inventive (voice of Jamie Bell) and his dog Snowy set only captures the essence of Tintin's genius but also the essence of what we know as the Spielberg artistic mandate. Tintin is a grand-admiral, fun-hearted, inquisitive resourceful, gadget-savvy young man ... without a single sexual thought, or any relations, or much of a job ... who dedicates his lives to solving mysteries and setting things right all over the globe. That's Spielberg, in a nutshell. It's a smart, clever, well-paced, more attempt a sequel to this year about the search for a broken watch or Lover's Lotus. It's as close to perfection as Spielberg will ever again produce. Screenplay adaptation by Steven Moffat, Edgar Wright, and Joe Cornish. Also with the talent of Daniel Craig, Simon Pegg, Cary Elwes, Toby Kebbell, Mark Frost, and Gad Elmaleh. (BSR now) (K.V.)

Albert Nobbs Glenn Close — in a smashing of her 1982 stage role as a woman passing for male on the job at a Ireland Ireland hotel in the Victorian era — hopelessly herself slowly, by degrees. The charisma of the overall book Mr. Nobbs ashore Mrs. her way into her proprietress a family suite (loosely translated person) who finally finds a way of group happiness where another "issues

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PICK

Chico & Rita

Slender poem so hot you'll fry for this Spain/UK-production animated feature, the on-again, off-again love story of a pair of mambo-era Cuban performers — sultry chanteuse Rita and jam-crazy pianist Chico — as they make their way through a brilliantly drawn and re-imagined Havana, New York, Las Vegas, Hollywood, and Paris, chasing fame and the spirit of bebop. The settings are the source inside the film. They're the product of Spanish co-directors Fernando Trueba (*Belle Epoque*), Javier Mariscal and Tono Errando with original music by composer/musician Bebo Valdés (he fixed the singing for Chico) sprinkled with minimal cameos by such legends as Charlie Parker, Ben Webster, Thelonious Monk, and the two percussion Cuban percussionist Chano Pozo. Chico and Rita's youthful romance is only a book on which to hang the jazz and music — but the tour of their world is well worth taking. The animation was done on the Isle of Man, Barcelona, Madrid, Latvia, Philippines, Hungary and Brazil. (94 min.) — *K V*



follow rumors and he veteran is rambling house painter named Robert Page (Forest McCluer). Both manchurist are suicidal in a completely naturalistic way, and wander Riverside Corona ensures the diverse stops comparatively tight on its feet, with apt Jonathan notes by Brendan Bonebrake. Mig Wieniawski, Pauline Cohen, Brenna Foster, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, and Aaron Jackson. Direct Randall deHoberprant on the screenplay, adapted with Jean Rabwille and Gabriella Pravato made an original short story by with inventor George Inventor Chick full of inventions names. (103 min.) (*KK*)

The Artist Extensively but rare. The French team of actor Jean Dujardin and writer-director Michel Hazanavicius (the *OSS 117* spy send-up series) takes a time-machine side both on 1923s Hollywood for this story of a vain silent-movie star (Dujardin) whose career tanks with the coming of talkies. Meanwhile his girlfriend (pretty Bérénice Bejo), a walk-on extra, becomes a star herself. The gimmick is that the actors — all of them, including supporting players John Goodman and James Cromwell — do without dialogue until the movie's final scenes. It's left to well timed jumpcuts (apparently almost spoken English). Does we foster in the economy's representative to Samuel Beckett's *A Star is Born*, and Singin' in the Rain, there's nothing much magical to hang hats except Dujardin's signature mugging. (100 min.) (*KV*)

Big Miracle Whale-rescue feel-gooder liberated greatly from the premise of Drew Barrymore as a Greenpeace activist helping to free three gray whales trapped in the ice as the northern tip of Alaska. In fact, director and keeper misanthropic satirical animal shows Aaron as a real-life 2008 blockbuster, builds a number of human-actor bons in the hold. Joan Rainwater as a sympathetic TV newsman, Ted Danson as a greedy oil man tycoon, Bell as a slightly and sympathetic TV newsmaster, Tootsie Mahoney as a grumpy military officer, and yes that's the wacky and mistimed James Lofton as Kurt Hoeckel inventor of the Hoeckel 450 Ice-Ice that saves Fred, Wilma, and Barney Gumm (the Ice Human Crusaders) when their ice hole threatens to freeze over. The women play is by Jack Amiel and Michael Begler, adapted from a book by Thomas Rose. (107 min.) (*MJV*)

Dogfight Eighty minutes of entertaining behaving. Working on a suburban Park soundstage to stand in for a Brooklyn New York apartment, director Brandon Peliaski deals Rachel Blair Jean actors Christian Hoda, Kate Mikaelt, Jodie Foster, and John C. Reilly as nervous, self-centered hoopers trying their best to be involved in settling a fight Brendan Gleeson's unseen adolescent sons. Naturally the grownups are more childish than the kids could ever go, with Waltz and Foster turning the change. The screenplay was adapted by Brendan and French playwright Yasmina Reza from her stage play *God of Carnage*, and it displays the veteran director's knack for attentionic pieces as the quartet sessions without the one-room live setting window and stepping no adult without them. (81 min.) (*KV*)

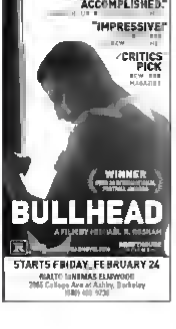
Deathbound Here Brendan sessions Chris Farraday (Mark Wahlberg) is a retired smuggler now living in Key Largo. He has because of a relative's and local fan's invites to make the proverbial "one and run" to Panama for cocaine and counterfeit currency — or else heavily fined Baroness Ilsa's will but Chris with (Kate Beckinsale). What about and from losing the salty hair product it might have been? The writing mostly, obviously the dialogue and some preposterous situations. Ins we have to give credit to director Baltasar Kormákur an import from Iceland for this Brendan one of freedom merchant, human and reconstruction-site settings, and the director Reliable and is fairly competent. The screenplay is by Aaron by Aaron Guzikowski of the Icelandic film *Reykjavik/Rotterdam*. Costarring Elma Foster and Dougie Lens as various Floridians and J.K. Simmons as the flummoxed occupant of the contrainer ship. (156 min.) (*KV*)

The Descendants A slight triumph for both director Alexander Payne and actor George Clooney, who plays a well-off Honolulu descendants with big Jonathon to make after an Boreland broker his wife in a coma. The emotional and ethical appeal of ("back-up parent" Matt Ring (Clooney) and his daughters is of a piece with the Payne's lonely, ultimately charming applied to similarly flummoxed characters in Sideways, Aaron Sorkin's, or the end of the Payne filmography. Like honest images, Payne is so infatuated with individual Americans as he is with the idea of being an American... here supported by folks in Matt's native Hawaiian family background. Clooney turns in one of his finest performances, maybe his best to date, with tender support by Shailene Woodley and Amara Miller as the daughters. The wistful, lovely traditional Hawaiian island is also pertinent. Screenplay by Payne, Nat Faxon, and Jim Rash, adapted from a novel by Kaui Hart Hemmings. Fine support acting by Nick Krause, Beau Bridges, Matthew Lillard, and Robert Foster. Refreshing and invigorating as an Aaron breeze. (115 min.) (*KV*)

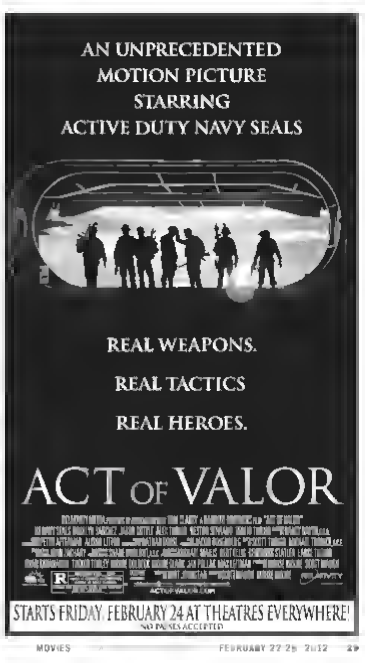
Final Short Spirit of Vengeance In a sequel to the 2007 hit, Nicolas Cage reclaims his role as the flamin' hero with this more must come this of taking in order to stop the devil from taking a human form and wreaking ghost. Directed by Neveldine/Taylor, written by Scott Glosple, Seth Hoffman, and David S. Goyer and based on the Marvel Comics character. (95 min.)

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo Nothing terribly wrong with David Fincher's Fgtnah-language remake of the first episode of the Stieg Larsson-penned Swedish trilogy about female support Lisbeth Salander and her up the man who hate women. Directly it native spends his previously except version will welcome lovers of Craig and both Rooney Mara (an extremely Lisbeth) and Daniel Craig (as the role of reporter Mikael Nyqvist) handle themselves well that we wonder as we've denied in semis cases exactly why the make was necessary. Other than to support the subtitle-resistant audience segment of the US. Plus support by Christopher Plummer, Stellan Skarsgård, Yorick van Wageningen, and Judy Nathanson as members his creepy right-wing industrialist family. It will make a sturdy curiosity. (158 min.) (*KV*)

The Grey Potentially human survival adventure stirred brain-crushed Alaskan oil workers ripe in the wilderness should dwell in the food by taking glowing-eyed, height-eyed CGI wolves whose growls sound like alimentary hunger. Bitumastic Liam support is consuming as an atmospheric wolf hunter, with Dermot Mulroney, Frank Grillo, and a host of Vaseline-ed stamping across the snowy tundra. Director-co-writer Jim Carnahan's threat to credibility to the right place but he should *Behind The Way Back, Million Dry Wolf* or even the 1994 *White Fang* and take notes. Helping Carnahan on the screenplay is Ian Mackenzie Jeffers, as if just sobbing about the way they adapted this book, Ivator Weber. (117 min.) (*KV*)







MUT

Hugo A Martin Scorsese children's movie with 3D that implies. The surreal director slathers here much of a feel for the hood enthusiasm an impotence displays. Boy who lives in the walls of a 1930s-era Paris train station maintaining the station's animal. Scorsese's main concern is young Hugo's (Asa Butterfield) relation to Papa Georges (Ben Kingsley), a grumpy shopkeeper who just might be the great early-film fantasy director Georges Melies living out his life in obscurity. Sat August can't very hard for kids. It's Monsieur for enemies hosting the Scorsese and his previous worry of last for the suit with genuine class from Melies' short masterpieces, plus his own gorgeously Mentioner 3D impressions of a Rue-lover's Paris. Chloe Grace Moretz stands out Hugo's love-lore interest, with Alex Sharpster bits by the insanely sweet-cool Emily Mortimer Christopher Lee and Sacha Baron Cohen as the comically menacing station lieutenant. Screenplay by John Logan adapted from the novel by Brian Selznick. (127 min.) (A/V.)

The Iron Lady Just what we were perfect to see (not) a pet-under-the-skin portrait of glorious former UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. It's the kind of job that calls for Meryl Streep to full deep-shamelessly Religion and this actress' stadium disappears even in the perfect dress. Hammond is turned in the early stages of Iranian dramatic hallucinating her face mad husband (Jim Broadbent) with her achievements in flashback: rising from shopkeeper's daughter to Tory political stardom, breaking sexual segregating beside on the Billy list. At least they left off her interaction with past cronies Reagan and Henry Kissinger. Long before this White Elephant Supreme course to an end, we're wondering why Richard Phillips Lloyd (Manager Jobs) and screenwriter Abi Morgan (Shame, Brick Lane) decided to take such an enervating frame in the first place — other than to give Streep another opportunity to follow Costarring Richard E. Grant. (105 min.) (R/V.)

The Mysterious Image Cheerfully undemanding, PG-rated boys'-and-girls' animation. Gently it dresses. "Sorcerer Chesh Hatuberson and his compensatory compiled (Hitchcock Hatuberson) to author Jules Verne's collection: isle where they have giant lobsters, huge reptiles, and the dream of young, and — the massive dons (that is, with Vincent Hodgens as the daughter of the comic relief (Lois Gershard). Concentrated not to give anyone improvement Starship available by Brad Peyton from a screenplay by Brent and Beau Garin, taken from a story they wrote with Richard Outten, adapted in turn from Verne's stodgier novel. Added distraction: its transitional and-ran. "Curly's Seasonality" as all-new 3D cartoon featuring puffy duck singing Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 while dodging shotgun-blasts fired by Elmer Fudd. It's hold. Retained a tape-left, turned by the late voice king Mel Blanc. Directed by Matt O'Callaghan. (99 min.) (A/V.)

The Muppets Kermit, Miss Piggy, Fozzie Bear, the Swedish Chef, Animal and the rest of the original Jim Henson platoon of wise-cracking, furry puppets return from a long hiatus to see are on a mission — rescue the Muppets' bosses from the clutches of a greedy oil tycoon (Chris Cooper). Little kids and anyone with remembered the Eight ies will be suitably wowed. From all appearances they're traditional-style adapted not CGI and the new songs by Bret McKenzie give them plenty to do. Amortizing the shaded side of the story are Amy Adams (gamekeeping her own sweetness) and Forgetting Sarah Marshall guy Jason Segel (he also co-writes). Methuselahized cameos by everyone from Mickey Rooney to Ken "Mr. Brain" Jeong. Directed smoothly by James Bobin. There's an extra added consolation in the disbelief. Pixar's *Small Fry* a years short taken from Lightyear's "mad-me a frustrated ham food giveaway toy. (102 and.) (A/V.)

My Week With Marilyn Emotive insecurity turned grown-up ego as this behind-the-scenes dramatization of Marilyn Monroe (Michelle Williams) being stunned by Laurence Olivier (Kenneth Branagh) in the movie *The Prince and the Showgirl* from 1956 is seen through the eyes of a dopeiness young assistant director named Colin Clark (Eddie Redmayne). Wildest is genuinely good as vulnerable Man in and downright s too as the dopeiness Oliver although they work together better it we see optimist, our disbelief. Brought in by Hollywood and englishmen to play Olivier, despite his perfect knee-impersonation Adrian Hodges' screenplay, better as Clark's bell-ed relation seems stamped from the same pattern as Ale and Diane shallow in the large supporting cast are Julia Ormond as Vivien Leigh (Judi Dench) Toni Warnendale as Monroe's acting teacher and Dominic Scott as Milli's playwright husband, Arthur. "She's devouring me, Miller, directed dutifully by Simon Curtis (opera) enthusiast Dr. Dream-belt. (99 min.) (R/V.)

The Dream Beethoven Short Films 2012: Animated Eleven great bags of the Dream Beethoven, notables at Beethoven, we wouldn't mind seeing again. Will Sam Jones and Brandon Oldenburg's *The Monkeyer Flying Book of Mr. Lawrence*, a motion-capture dialogue-free jaw-jacking 2008 made-in-Montana and set in and Around New Dilemma station the dream characters on a magic journey to start his own library, where books keep him forever young. *Wild Life* in a drastic ladies man-history of life as the Canadian square bear seen early in the story of an Englishman who adapts to the wide open desolate. It's written and directed by Amanda Forbis and Wendy Tilby (5 min.) (R/V.)

The Dream re-dressed Short Short 2012: Live Action Still Take gets a surreal doggone from the Director via Live to live. He decides to spend his remaining time playing his tuba and Mentos-gumming pricey songbirds and is joined by Ingaa, a beverage volunteer. Derek Angell from a Christian group somewhat-pro-style laughs ensue in studion Wily's witty-manners Take Atlantic Short solution on the five-film roundup Ajay Electric Take Zaney's mixed-emotions of a German couple trying to adopt a boy in Kenya. Indie The Dream a weird dismay by writer-director Henry George about a man doctor Carlos Hondo who returns to Northern Ireland to reunite and his estranged spinster, relation and Andrea Bowers's human comedy sci-fi comedy *Time Freak*, in which a Montessorians and his time machine creates more inspection than it solves, in general, the collection is better than the "Animated" 2012 shorts. (99 min.) (R/V.)

Pina 3D Even for non-fans of dance, this 3D (!) performance documentary public of choreographer Pina Bausch and her Tanztheater Wuppertal ensemble provides a spectacular show of emotions and stage-craft. Wide-screen Wim Wenders (Buena Vista Social Club, Wings of Desire) in closely station to capture the imaginative Bausch's startling set pieces in *The Rite of Spring* and *Café Müller* — and of Bausch's marvelous gestures taken object-lessons a bit too heavily it's all there with a very textured sense of humor

PICK

Haywire

Superior genre pic stars Women a Mixed Martial Arts champ Gina Carano as an international rent-a-killer trying to find out which governmental (or private) spy org sold her out in Barcelona. The deft hand of director Steven Soderbergh is everywhere apparent from the ultra-brisk exposition to David Holmes' retro Seventies-style music track. Writer Lem Dobbs' tee-old dialogue isn't too shabby either. Carano may seem at first like a standard-issue female avenger but she outpaces more closely to a female Chuck Norris — entirely convincing as an ex Marine unsentimental to connecting the dots, first learning in a hurry. Among those on her hit list, Ewan McGregor Channing Tatum, Michael Douglas, Antonio Banderas, Matthieu Kassovitz, and old hand Bill Paxton as her father. Begs for a sequel. (92 min.) – *Kelly Vance*







that's not an oxymoron. The scenes in Downtown Wuppertal and the nearby forest are wonderful as is the music in general from needle drops to the original score by Thom Hanreich-Annenmond at cliff. (104 min.) (R/V.)

Red Tails George Lucas himself as executive producer for the affirmative-action film Red Tails, the Tuskegee Airmen, and it does so synthetic and dull as *The Phantom Menace*. The film's depiction of fists in World War II starts like a variation on third-hand memory (and well-equipped hand like a computer-game backdrop) and the characters are station cartoonsque of old projection-style types. This is no parodic or playwriting, that it tells even as a basic history lesson. It's hard to believe that the Aural landmarks servicemen have any non-studious to real written. With the exception of Cuba Gooding Jr (who daughter his Rom as though his station years, mannerisms), the actors be there best with the material TV veteran Anthony Hemingway directed. (125 min.) (R/3.)

Safe Haven Hi! The big-budget screen think, Nicholas Sparks-ian plays a CIA agent turned-emotional-turned-street station who a secret is a safe bomber under the pseudonym of another agent, played by Ryan Reynolds — but his Bomber is quickly uncovered and must men are forced to flee across their local safe-sales, directed by Rachel Espinosa; written by David Gaeggenheim, also starring Yees Farrigo and Brendan Gleeson. (115 min.)

The Secret World of Arrietty A lonely, shyly diabetes boy named Shawn discovers Arrietty a tiny (average girl, as he recuper sets in a diabetes home. She's one of the Borrowers, a race of miniature people who live under the Boerkeeners and pilfer household items from the Arrigo, and these budding friendship in doomed from the start, because The charming and beautifully composed animated fable from Japan's famed Studio Ghibli is written by Ghibli mainstrend Hayao Miyazaki (Spirited Away) with Keiko Niwa, and co-directed by Hiromasa Yonebayashi and Gary Rydstrom, who handles the American version (there's a dubbed-in version). It's probably the quietest, largest, and most melancholy tale in the Ghibli catalog, despite the wondrous charming of Carol Burnett as Haru the cantankerous cruel housekeep-er. As with young children ones to hyperactive mainstream entertainment may some of off. The best is to slow down, listen and observe. What a novelty. Starring the voices of Bridget Mendler (Arrietty) and Tom Konkle (Shawn). The screenplay

is adapted from Mary Norton's previously filmed novel The Borrowers, with the American version written by Karey Kirkpatrick. (94 min.) (K.V.)

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows Holmes (Robert Downey Jr., never better) and his bosom companion Dr. Watson (Jude Law, along for the ride) journey hectically to France, Germany, and Switzerland on the trail of evil genius Professor Moriarty (Jared Harris), and his henchmen, who are trying to stir up World War I twenty years too early. The change of scenery does them good. [illegible] same Guy Ritchie directorial hyperactivity [illegible] with the exotic Noomi Rapace (of the Swedish Dragon Tattoo) [illegible] the agreeable hamming of Stephen Fry as Mycroft [illegible] the lookalike brother [illegible] production design by Sarah Greenwood. The screenplay is by the husband-wife team of Kieran and Michele Mulroney. (129 min.) (K.V.)

Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace 3D The [illegible] 1999 [illegible] of the blockbuster Star Wars series. [illegible] in 3D. Written and directed by George Lucas; starring Liam Neeson, Natalie Portman, Ewan McGregor, and [illegible]. (135 min.)

This Is 40 [illegible] a tiresome con man [illegible] insurance agent (Greg Kinnear) [illegible] is blackmailed after stealing an extremely valuable violin from a client. Directed by [illegible] and Karen [illegible]; also starring Alan Arkin and Billy Crudup. (114 min.)

This Means War Action-comedy about a pair of [illegible] and CIA agents (Chris Pine and Tom Hardy) [illegible] the woman they discover they're both dating (Reese Witherspoon). Directed by McG; written by Simon Kinberg, Timothy Dowling, and [illegible]; also starring Chelsea Handler. (98 min.)

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy All the ingredients come together in a brooding adaptation of the John le Carré Cold War spy novel about the search for a mole inside the British secret service, circa 1973. At the top of the list is [illegible] Gary Oldman's [illegible] underplaying as quiet, careful, ever-observant intelligence guru George Smiley [illegible] after years of [illegible] as Beethoven, Dracula, Sid Vicious, Lee Harvey Oswald, et al. He's backed up by a dream team of English players: Colin Firth, John Hurt, Benedict Cumberbatch, Tom Hardy, Toby Jones, Kathy Burke, Simon McBurney, Ciarán Hinds, and [illegible] villain Mark Strong in a change of pace as a conflicted agent. The screenplay adaptation, by Peter Straughan and the late Bridget O'Connor, is likewise a model of efficiency. Wrap it up with [illegible] Tomas Alfredson's (Let the Right One In) [illegible] scene-setting, and it's one of the most intelligent espionage dramas since, well, le Carré's own The Spy Who Came in from the Cold. Also thrilling: Alberto Iglesias' music score. By the way: don't look for gadgets or car chases — the main energy expended here is analytical. (127 min.) (K.V.)

The Tree of Life Writer-director Terrence Malick brings his fabled point of view (Badlands, Days of Heaven, The New World) to a project more narratively ambitious than anything he's done before. In the otherwise domestic story of a nuclear family of five in 1950s Texas (Brad Pitt, Jessica Chastain, and [illegible]) and what their lives mean in the grand [illegible] of things. The film has an [illegible] of Malick's trademark [illegible] so sharp that at times they threaten to swamp the [illegible] line. That [illegible] is precariously sandwiched between two "movements" of [illegible] (erupting volcanoes, jellyfish, cataclysms of [illegible], galaxies, etc.) that go on and on, very much like Godfrey Reggio's [illegible] films. That's a tall sign to put it [illegible] this is the most pretentiously "philosophical" Malick film yet. Somewhere along the line the [illegible] Sean Penn as one of the Texas family's sons gets lost in the shuffle. A disappointment, despite the strong central [illegible]. (138 min.) (K.V.)

The Vow Nicholas Sparks-penned tearjerker starring Rachel McAdams as an amnesiac and Channing Tatum as her husband. (104 min.)

War Horse A boy, a horse, and Steven Spielberg. That's a dangerous combination. [illegible] Spielberg displays his [illegible] in the gorgeous, [illegible] story [illegible] that won World War I. An English farming lad [illegible] Albert [illegible] (Jeremy Irvine) raises his four-footed pal Joey only to see the horse sold to an army officer and shipped off to France to help fight the Germans. So begins a [illegible] that [illegible] MGM of the Thirties and Forties, with some of Spielberg's finest action sequences (the cavalry charge, the No Man's Land scene, etc.) trading blows with some of the corniest moments shown on a big screen since Louis B. Mayer died. The screenplay by Lee Hall and Richard Curtis, adapting Michael Morpurgo's novel, is borderline [illegible]. The acting, especially by such as David Thewlis, Liam Cunningham, and Benedict Cumberbatch in smaller roles, is fine — but watch out for Peter Mullan and Emily Watson as Albert's parents. The thing that sinks War Horse is Spielberg's [illegible] propensity for mawkishness and [illegible], plus his [illegible] visual [illegible] in which nothing escapes un-illustrated. It's a [illegible] and this is a 1940s [illegible] every sense of the word. (146 min.) (K.V.)

The Woman in Black Quite the gothic [illegible] Anne [illegible] for [illegible] on the [illegible] from [illegible] years of Harry Potter, has a convincing Victorian figure as an [illegible] who is [illegible] atmospheric and gruesome and [illegible] to an old dark house in the North of England. Dead Woman Woman [illegible] especially when the apparition appears. The film is also part of a [illegible] for venerable [illegible] Film Productions, with all the [illegible] detailed production values that made [illegible] famous. Ciarán Hinds, Janet McTeer, and Sophie Stuckey [illegible] and wrought [illegible] performances as [illegible] an [illegible] of the [illegible] Guy [illegible] series. [illegible] James Watkins (Eden Lake) from a screenplay by Jane Goldman (Kick-Ass), adapted from a gothic novel by English author Susan Hill. (95 min.) (K.V.)

ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

A Trip of Mars (90 min., 1918). Silent with [illegible] intertitles and English translation, plus live [illegible] by [illegible] and an introduction by [illegible]. Silent Cinema and Life in the Air (Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, 7:00)

Mother: Caring for 7 Billion (54 min., 2011). Followed by a panel discussion with environmental and population experts. (Ecology Center, Berkeley, 7:00)

Traveling Light (100 min., 2012). National Theatre Live. (Rialto Cinemas Elmwood, Berkeley, 7:00)

Ghostbusters (105 min., 1984). [illegible] (UA Berkeley 7, 9:00)

High Noon (85 min., 1952). (Alameda Theatre, Alameda, 1:20, 3:15, 5:10, 7:05)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

High Treason (75 min., 1929). Silent, with live music by Peter Chapman. [illegible] Silent Cinema and Life in the Air (PFA, 7:00)

Barbary Coast (91 min., 1935). Howard Hawks: The Measure of Man (PFA, 8:45)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

The Mystery of the Eiffel Tower (79 min., 1927). Silent with live music by Ralph Carney and Serious Jazz Project, as well as an introduction by [illegible]. [illegible] Silent Cinema and Life in the Air (PFA, 6:00)

I Vitelloni (104 min., 1962). In French with English subtitles. Austere Perfectionism: The Films of Robert Bresson (PFA, 8:30)

84th Academy Awards (320 min., 2012). With contests, prizes, and more. (Rialto Cinemas Cerrito, El Cerrito, 5:30)

The Wolf Man (70 min., 1941) and **Frankenstein Meets the Wolf Man** (74 min., 1943). Hosted by [illegible] (Paramount Theatre, 7:00)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Festivities of Flight: Animation and Comedy Shorts (87 min., total running time, 1905-1931). Featuring seven shorts from [illegible], with live music by Frederick Hodges. [illegible] Silent Cinema and Life in the Air (PFA, 2:00)

Safety Last! (70 min., 1923). Silent, with musical accompaniment. Berkeley Underground Film Society (1199 Channing, Berkeley, 7:00)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

His Girl Friday (92 min., 1940). Howard Hawks: The Measure of Man (PFA, 7:00)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

The Art of Capture (79 min., 2011). In Arabic, Spanish, and French, with English subtitles. African Film Festival 2012 (PFA, 7:00)

Flamingos (60 min., 2012). With an appearance by the filmmaker. Moderated [illegible] at 6:30 p.m., followed by discussion. (Wheeler Hall, 7:30)



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Reese Witherspoon, Tom Hardy, Chris Pine
THIS MEANS WAR
(1:30 4:45) 7:15 9:30 PG-13

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★ THE ARTIST (PG-13) [illegible]
★ THE DESCENDANTS (R) [illegible]

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THE OSCAR NOMINATED SHORT FILMS 2012: ANIMATED (NR) [illegible]
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GHOST RIDER: SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE (PG-13) [illegible]
THIN ICE (R) [illegible]
★ ALBERT NOBBS (R) [illegible]
★ MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) [illegible]
★ HUGO (PG) [illegible]
TYLER PERRY'S GOOD DEEDS (PG-13) [illegible]
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MUSIC

PAY TO PLAY

It's nothing new but music licensing fees still plague local businesses.

Kathleen Richards

Imagine Steve Ranjbin's surprise when a representative of the music licensing giant BMI walked into his Oakland business one day and told him that the music he was playing on his stereo was subject to fees. Ranjbin had purchased the CDs, and he thought he was free to do what he wanted with them. But now BMI was telling him he had to pay an additional $340 a year for the right to play them in his Piedmont Avenue coffee shop, Roos Cafe. Adding to his confusion was the fact that other local business owners he talked to had never heard of such requirements, and weren't paying any fees. Ranjbin didn't understand whether they were really legitimate or not. But his failure to respond just resulted in more aggressive requests to pay up. He felt he was being harassed by the "music mafia."

Most club and bar owners are already paying such fees, but for proprietors of cafes, restaurants, and other small businesses, the world of music licensing is often a surprise — and a harsh one. Because Ranjbin has two locations, one on Piedmont Avenue and one on Park Boulevard, he found he had to pay separate fees for both. Then the American Society of Composers Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) the other major music licensing organization — caught wind of his cafés too. Ranjbin was soon on the hook for more than $1,000 a year to play CDs in his cafés.

Eventually Ranjbin caved. But in other cases it's not an issue of ignorance. Last year BMI (along with other plaintiffs) sued Masses Billiards Sports Bar and Grill in Walnut Creek for failing to pay proper licensing. According to the filings, owners Maureen and Christian Paden had been paying for a BMI license until 2008 but then stopped, claiming it would no longer play BMI affiliated music. But that apparently wasn't the case. Last December, a San Jose district court ordered the owners to pay BMI $11,000 plus more than $11,000 in legal fees for playing three songs — "Feeling," "You Can Get Over It" and "I Wanna Be Bad Things With You n/k/a Bad Things" — without a license to do so.

Art Sordoval, BMI's director of corporate communications, says the company does not often take such cases to court, and in fact, tries as much as possible to avoid legal proceedings. "We license 650,000 businesses in the U.S. Every year there are maybe two hundred cases that go to court," he said. "The average time that BMI communicates with an establishment is three years. They receive in that time maybe fifty letters and as many, or more, phone calls.

"It's in the constitution," he continued. "We're not making up the laws or anything."

It's true. According to US copyright law any music played outside a normal circle of friends and family is considered a "public performance," and thus requires permission from the copyright owners. Buying a CD or downloading a song only covers personal use.

This is one way that songwriters make money. BMI estimates that if licenses half of all the songs played on the radio and represents 500,000 songwriters. Sordoval stresses that contrary to popular belief BMI is not raking in cash for profit but merely acting as a conduit between businesses and songwriters. The not-for-profit organization distributes 86 cents of every dollar it collects to artists according to Sordoval and operates on a 14 percent margin. Last year it distributed $800 million to its songwriters.

Granted, for the average local band, earnings from music royalties are minuscule to nonexistent. But then again playing music is generally considered a money-losing endeavor so anything is better than nothing.

The minimum BMI licensing fee is $333 a year which provides unlimited access to 7.5 million songs, says Sordoval. The cost of a license depends on the square footage of the establishment occupancy level the type of music played as well as how central music is to the establishment's business model. As BMI sees it music enhances the experience of the business customers. "The pie fits that can be generated by the use of music is immeasurably greater than the fee they pay," Sordoval said.

Playing the radio is a slightly different story however since radio stations already pay licensing fees to ASCAP and BMI. Only food at drinking establishment that are 3,750 square feet or larger or any other businesses that's 2,000 square feet or larger must pay for a separate license, to play the radio — and only if they have more than six loudspeakers, more than four loudspeakers in any one room or if there is a cover charge.

Pandora radio adds another dynamic since Internet radio is not regulated by the FCC and thus not covered by the same terms as terrestrial radio. Though the Oakland-based company pays its own fees to BMI and ASCAP the service is for personal use only.

Confused yet? So apparently are many business owners. A recently commissioned study of a small number of retailers by the commercial music licensor DMX revealed that the vast majority of them that play music in their stores do not pay for a licensing service. The reason is a "lack of awareness," according to DMX COO Chris Harrison. The Austin-based company provides background and foreground music to major retailers like the clothing chain Abercrombie & Fitch via a proprietary station.

But it also licenses to small businesses. "A lot of people were using iPods, and when we would say you're not covered, you need to pay licenses to do this, for some of them it wasn't enough that they should buy one service," Harrison said. "Over time we couldn't find a way to effectively market to that local business."

So last fall Pandora and DMX launched a fully licensed Pandora radio specifically targeted to small businesses. Harrison says any size business that uses music as an enhancement (gyms classes must pay for a separate license) can use the radio, but so far the product is popular among retailers and restaurants. The player costs $99.95, plus $24.95 per month (about $4 cheaper per month than BMI's lowest fee). It appears to be a more affordable option for small businesses, especially when taking into account the need to pay ASCAP.

The reason is that DMX licenses 100,000 businesses at a time, says Harrison. "We get licenses at a lower rate than a business that is negotiating that individually."

Despite being on the market for only a few months Harrison says the response has been "tremendous." "We're selling tens of devices every day, seven days a week," he said.

All that's required is a Pandora account. If users have a premium account ($36 per year) there are no ads and no timeouts. That seems like an obvious threat to BMI and ASCAP's business model. Sordoval said the Pandora/DMX box is "under review" by BMI.

Meanwhile it might be a more viable solution for business owners like Ranjbin. He decided to stop paying BMI and ASCAP this year when he was informed that his fees would be raised 5 percent for "cost of living" expenses. Recently he received a letter from BMI's lawyer threatening legal action if he didn't pay within ten days. He paid the bill but minus late fees and the price increase. He's hoping that will satisfy them but his odds don't look good. "I still think they're not going to base," said Sordoval. "I can't think of a case we didn't win." ●



Roos Cafe owner Steve Ranjbin (L) is BMI and ASCAP fee "victim" stephen Lovekin

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Corporate theft of the counter-culture is even more insidious in an internet economy

By George Chen

Once when someone asked me — seriously — about how to turn around the decline of the music industry, I made the joke, "Well, they haven't figured out how to sell undead a T-shirt yet." Like with most jokes, there was some truth in it. Merchandising has become a larger piece of the financial pie for new bands whose physical album sales are declining and who are forced to monetize their live performances and press flesh. Working bands have to treat tours as political campaigns essentially, and branding, a willing horse is the best viral marketing for many. As a fan buying their shirt, you are telling the world "I was there! I have a very specific taste that I want to be identified with." It's a more obvious sign of fandom than the unobtrusive white surface mainline of modern listening, a micro-curation of your body and headspace.

Recently, a whole spate of band logos have been "recycled" and placed in new commercial contexts. In December, Forever 21 announced its "Kurt Cobain Flipper shirt," a shirt design using the logo of the cult Bay Area punk band. Part of the good was Forever 21's website description attributing the design to Cobain rather than recognizing the Flipper's logo. It did not help matters that *Rolling Stone* writer Colleen Nika's first posting missed this fact as well, even implying that Courtney Love would sue Forever 21 since this design was Cobain's intellectual property.

It finally came to light that members of Flipper were receiving a fee from the shirt vendor. Worn Free, as the issue became more one of odd taste and cluelessness on the part of Forever 21 than that has been on the receiving end of lawsuits about its labor practices and for "borrowing" from other designs.

Just when that story seemed to die down, in January, some clever person in the art department of Disney's magic kingdom created a design combining Mickey Mouse's infamous silhouette with the cover artwork of Joy Division's *Unknown Pleasures*. The wholesome Disney corporation pulled the shirt off the site when they learned that Joy Division's Ian Curtis famously committed suicide. It makes one wonder who approved this copycat in the first place. Former members of Joy Division claimed to have no knowledge or approval of the Disney shirt. Bassist Peter Hook, who is on the outs with his New Order bandmates, told *Rolling Stone* it's an odd situation we find ourselves in as Joy Division and New Order because when we originally started out we didn't believe in self-promotion of any kind — we never get involved with merchandise.

We've always been one of the most bootlegged bands in history, particularly Joy Division. But it's a hell of a compliment to be bootlegged by someone like Disney."

The story of corporations ripping off small artists is not new, but it's become a lot more incendiary — and a lot of that has to with the pace at which T-shirt designs go viral. So-called "retweet" and meme culture doesn't really draw lines between approbation and endorsement. In both the Forever 21 and Disney cases, people who would never set foot in either store became unwitting promoters of the design, because they helped spread it on the Internet. And if you believe the old adage that "any publicity is good publicity," then a snarky blog post or message board comment can amount to a free commercial. The Mickey Mouse *Unknown Pleasures* is clever as a parody, and if anything it taints Disney more than it damages Joy Division merely by exposing the band to an unsuspecting audience.

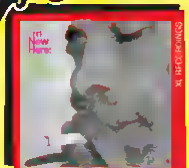

Disney pulled this shirt and its site where it sold it after it was learned that Joy Division singer Ian Curtis committed suicide.

When I first saw the Mickey *Mouse Unknown Pleasures* design, I was reminded of a design by Chris Wright sold by Bristol designers Afrocan Apparel which takes the painter image and adds a cartoon reaction. The African Apparel line has many music reference parodies, including a shirt emblazoned with Jimi Hendrix's image that misidentifies him as "Bob Marley." I wrote to Cedric Baruda Afrocan Apparel's owner, to get his opinion on Disney appropriating the Joy Division design. Neither Disney got no reflation whatsoever with Joy Division or independent music," he wrote. "They probably hired a graphic designer asking 'we need to target the young trendy professional and they came up with that design or some shit like that." It's a cynical view even though Baruda is tinkering with the same image that Disney was. But when you think about it, Joy Division didn't "own" its album cover art either — the band pilfered that image from an astronomy book.

The latest punch line in the Disney saga is a lot of flunkey-style parody (what some would call "shopdropping"). Someone made shirts combining a Mickey Mouse head with a logo from the English punk band Crass, and placed a stack of them inside a Disney store alongside Goofy and Donald swag. I tried my hand at it, too, by photoshopping Flounder from *The Little Mermaid* onto a Flipper shirt, and reposting it on Facebook. Then I did another cut and paste job, placing a Mickey Mouse head atop an image of a Bauhaus album cover. That's certainly less incongruent than a big corporation stealing from the little guy. Nonetheless, there was something discon fitting about seeing a cookie-cutter cartoon over something that at its genesis was supposed to be dark and antagonistic. But maybe there was never anything "authentic" or inherently subversive about these images in the first place.

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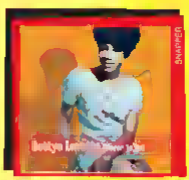
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STUFF OF MYTH

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Geographer

Myth

That's myth not as in "lie" but as in legend as in apologue as in huge and life-affirming and epic in that Greek way — or at least that's what's surmisable, even less than a minute into Geographer's second full length, when the percussion drops an intro track "Life of Crime," and shimmery synths give way to big melody and swelling strings: it feels like an anthem already, and you're only 25 seconds in.

This is what Geographer's good at, of course. It's telling that the San Francisco trio's electronic-inflected indie pop has a long history of being used in movies, trailers, and TV shows: it works in much the same way any Arcade Fire's does, by making smart use of instrumental layering, driving builds and soaring, relatively simple melodies. It's great, but it's not always surprising — which is why it's nice that the band stretches itself a little on *Myth*'s "Blinders" almost sounds like a synth-out Eighties dance track ("Talated Love," maybe?) save for unexpectedly shidgey guitars. "Vasiljevi" feels about as static and ambient as these guys will ever get, and "The Dream Has Faded" doesn't even employ anything but a spare synth beat and lead singer Mike Deihl's vocals — sounding more and more like Robin Pecknold every day, by the way — for a full minute and ten seconds before ballooning into bigness. That's progress, guys. (Modern Art)

— Ellen Cushing

At The Independent (628 Divisadero St., San Francisco) on Saturday, March 3. 8 p.m., sold out. TheIndependentSF.com



Larkin Grimm

Soul Retrieval

A former associate of The Dirty Projectors, singer-songwriter and instrumentalist Larkin Grimm (allegedly descended from those fairy tale people) is part of the continuum of freak folk/psychedelic folk, Grimm along with fellow travelers Espers, Faun Fables, and Animal Collective, occupies a niche in which various folk traditions and the DIY indie rock aesthetic overlap. (Their roots and '70s antecedents include Vashti Bunyan, the incredible String Band, and Holy Modal Rounders.) *Soul Retrieval* is her fourth album, and it's a genre-straddling, not-easily-defined wonder.

Larkin has a remarkable voice — her range encompasses mellow pop-folk approaching similar to that of Judy Collins and Carly Simon, a bright Idealistic-sounding trill and a smooth, deep purr evoking jazz and cabaret singers. "Paradise and So Many Colors" is so unabashedly brightly phantasmagorical that by comparison it makes Victoria Williams seem in dire need of Zoloft. The mournful melody of "Flash and Thunder Come to Earth" is embellished by harp, cello and recorders, lending it a late medieval or early Renaissance air. (If you got the feeling Grimm is unraptured by mundane/pre-Christian mythology, you're probably onto something.)



However, "The Road is Paved with Leaves" shows she's not a Ren Faire flake: it's an old-school, slow-dance R&B ballad, with Doug Wieselman's jazzy bass clarinet and chorus "shoo-bee-doo"-ing in the background. Grimm's glamspoken delivers finds her voice rich with bittersweet yearning, but she doesn't emulate the *R&B* divas of yesteryear — she's soulful on her own terms.

Stringed and windblown things: plonk, rattle, sigh and hear throughout fashioning a remarkable sound-world for Grimm. Clearly she's as much of this world as she's down with the goddess Gaia. (Bad Match)

— Mark Keresman

Elephant & Castle

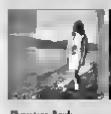
Tanisbens

On the spectrum of music that could with absolutely no value judgment implied be classified as "stoner electronica" this well-executed space jams of Elephant & Castle (aka Oakland's own David Reep) occupy a certain sweet spot. They're ambient and spare to be sure, but not so downtempo they'll put you to sleep — and at the same time they manage to be texturally interesting while never approaching the schizophrenic, relentless barrage of soul sounds-for-the-sake-of-soul sounds that Radio characterizes many acts in the genre. Most importantly, there's a real sense of movement and thoughtfulness to every track, of things starting and stopping and blooming and deepening in the space of a full song or even just a few bars, of every sample and synth being layered with a distinct sense of purpose. (To evoke emotion most often — there's a reason Reep's music is often described as melancholic).



Nowhere is this more apparent than on Reep's latest album *Transitions* due out next month. Take standout fifth track "En Memoria," which features UNE-ARDs and makes the album worth a buy on its strength alone. It begins with a muffled, incomprehensible melody over a swamp of trippy synths, but before long it's quietly morphed into a saltwater-soaked strings ballad, a calypso lullaby as reimagined by a full electronic orchestra, a glimmering atmospheric song, and back again all with the expert control of an experienced producer. This is electronic music that's more concerned with affecting your mood than it is with blowing your mind, and it's a triumph. (Plug Research)

— Ellen Cushing



Chrystan Rawk

Once a Fart ain Now a Wave

Golden haired Jon Benjevi lookalike Christian Carpenter (aka Chrystian Rawk) may or may not be a real soft rock act — perhaps he's just a performing-arts project by some secular ironist. If he's sincere, though, then Carpenter's somehow found a way to live heedless of fashion and guileless enough to combine a purple album jacket with over-the-top Christian imagery. (self released)

Contino

Back Porch Dogma

This sydeco band's album is unusually boring. (Few songs in the world are as flat as opener "Rotgut Run.") But frontman Pete Contino did manage to recruit legendary vocalist Mario Muldaur to sing on one of his original tracks which is impressive by itself. Contino fares a little better covering other people's music, including Tom Waits' "Temptation" and Willie Love's bluesy "V-8 Ford." (Blind Pig Records)

At Amanda's (707 Marina Vista Ave., Martinez) on Saturday, Mar. 3. 8 p.m. $10.

Colin McDaniel

Skewed Reflections

Straight-ahead jazz drummer Colin McDaniel amassed a killer band for this album of originals with a rhythm section that includes pianist Matt Clark and a horn section that features trumpeter Erik Jekabson. Most of the songs are more interesting rhythmically than they are melodically, given that the drums have a lot more leeway than the horn parts. (Jazzschool Records)

Drop Apollo

New King EP

As a funk band, Drop Apollo errs on the soft side — mostly because it favors warm chord patterns and the kind of sensitive, pop-nicky vocals that made Dave Matthews so popular. Indeed, DA singer Matt Widdess resembles Matthews in twang and timbre, even though Widdess might not consider himself an heir apparent. Drop Apollo's songs, while light, are remarkably considered. (self released)

At Sherlock Down Low (2264 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on Saturday, Feb. 25. 9 p.m. free.

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Blues, Folk, & Country

Jolie Holland with Wyatt Rottenberg, The New Brunch 9 p.m. $10 $00

Bonnet Lennon with Kimaya Mahabharata, LT Smooth, and Bill Griffin, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $14.50, $26.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Hector Robinson Trio's Restaurant 6 p.m. $10

Rock & Pop

DJ Matthew Joey Sloppy Brisk Ironic Vogue, Ohlone Theatre 9 p.m. Free

English Dogs with The Casualties, Sole Reluctant, Last Revolt, Crooked Maple Supercharger 7 p.m. $15

Mark David Robinson with Song Preservation Society and Spectre Sparks, Soulful Kitchen Archives 9 p.m., $10

The Spazmatics Eastbrook Sports Bar 10 p.m. free

Robinson with Chipbreaker and Lo Pari, Shock Club, 8 p.m., $6

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Funky Kingston featuring Franco Nero and The Rum Ups, Starry Plough, 8 p.m. $6-$10

Robinson Sisma plus River Jordan, Bonito, noc, 5:30 p.m., $12, $15

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Aqua Jumbo with Emily Maddy and The Poetic Kids, Hotel Utah, 8 p.m. $15

Junior Bastard Bastard Bastard, 8 & 10 p.m. $10

Jesse Dorio noise with The Bonnie Nettles, Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $20

Mac McCaughan (of Superchunk) with Son First, Rachel Haden, and Benni Hall (of the Essex Green), Cornish Robinson Hall, 8 p.m. $15, $17

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Eddie Palmieri Trio with guests, Yoshi's San Francisco 6-9 p.m. free

George Nicholas Small Howard, 8:30 p.m.

Rock & Pop

Big Black, Delta with Bow Diplomat plus Pigboat Rex, Mothers Stop, 8 p.m., $10 $12

Brisk To Spin with Music Crayon, The Fillmore 8 p.m., $15

Dirty Jumbo with The Barn Worm and Chapter 24, Brisk & Mortar Bowl Hall, 8 p.m., $12

The Frail with Jesse Abraham and Simone Cassetta, Bastard Bar & Grill, 8 p.m. free

Goddard with The Silversight Technique and Tally Trio, Deer Records, 8 p.m., $7

Sleigh Bells with Mark Diplomat, The Regency Ballroom, 8 p.m., $15

Soft Pack with Mazzy Star, The Walks, FIDLAR, and Surf Club, Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m. $13 $14

Thao with John Vanderslice, Gentle Waves, and Girl By Snow, Bimbo's 365 Club, 8 p.m., $19 $20

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Brisk Jordan's Bongolian Brisk Bondi Bonds Room, 8:30 p.m. $7

The Dudes Brisk with Allah-Las, Rewards, and Big Eyes, The Independent, 8 p.m. $20

Geo Bernard with Adamsonian Sisma, 8 p.m. $13

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Geo 4 Lee Band Mojito, 9:30 p.m. free

Flamenco Thursdays with Kenanza Bastard & Stephanie Reveles, Peña Pachamama, 8 p.m., $12

Lila Downs Gllenda Theatre, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY 24

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Steven Hill Subterranean Arthouse 8 p.m., $10

Bernard Hayes with Dennis Cahill, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse 8 p.m., $26.50, $28.50

Classical & Opera

Bach's St. Matthew Bastard St. Stephen's Church 8 p.m. $18-$50

Oakland East Bay Symphony Kingston Friends & Giants A celebration of the music of Ennio Schaffott and Mieczyslaw Weinberg, conductor by Bastard Kingston, Paramount Theatre, 8 p.m., $20-$70

Experimental & Avant Garde

Ennio Jumbo and Music at Large with Bastard DMMA, 8 p.m. $8-$47

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Geo Geo Bridgewater To Billie With Love: A Celebration of Lady Day, Yoshi's Bastard 8 & 10 p.m. $18

Leon Williams Quintet 5-7-31 Bastard Gallery, 8:30 p.m. $15

Rock & Pop

Bell Bonnie with David Rombeiro, Alaric, Gabriel Hearst, and Kyrosphere, Bill's Mile High Club 7 p.m.

Food Not Bastard Bastard featuring Mojo Jams and Dance, Nate Parker, and Wigton Boat, Re-nubian Cafe 7 p.m. $4-$13

Grey Butterfly with The Lions Tamarpais and The Bastard Starry Plough 9:30 p.m., $5

Lemons with Mortar Robinson Virus, 8 p.m. $5

The Mothers Mothers Bakery Cafe 7 p.m. free

The Opera with The Brisk Age, The Land RAVA, The Independents, and The Big Brisk Bio, Slims, 8 p.m. $17

Parker Robinson with Robinson Club, The Al Pierce, pterodactyldal, and BIGBOMB, Fox Theater, 7:30 p.m., $175

Punch with Adam Dubois, and Zero Programs, 1-2-3-4 Get Records, 7 p.m. $6

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Freestyle, B & I, O.A.K.E Brisk Bastard 10 p.m. free

Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Lichi Fuentes with Ennea Tenorsax and Hallo Wenzinger, La Peña Cultural Center, 8 p.m. $10 $12

Bastard Sons of Los Harmonics Robinson 9:30 p.m. $12 $15

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

The Mothers with The Hendringers, Slow Motion Cowboys, and The Creak, Brisk American Music Hall 8 p.m. $15

Julia Goddard with Will Sprott (of The Mumbles), Dreams, and Emily Jane Weiss, Swell at American Hall, 9 p.m., $15, $17

David David Bastard Bastard, 8 & 10 p.m. $20

Experimental & Avant Garde

Bonnie Nicole Play-Jams Up Gallery showcase of the art of Bastard Blandburg, Public Works, 8 p.m.

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

David Market Jazz Robinson Top of the Mark, 8 p.m. $17

Dave Holland Robinson Bastard with Kenny Potter, Jason Moran, and Eric Harland, Palace of Fine Arts, 8 p.m. $25-$85

Rock & Pop

Geo Mushi with Fake Your Best Death, Matthew + Wr ghat Bis, Bands of the Hill, 8 p.m. $20

Robinson Bastard with Jim Blanco, Bimbo's 365 Club, 8 p.m. $30

Soul's LP's with Sally Dig Wax, Brisk Wash, 8 p.m. $6

Bonnie Jaeger with Robinsons of Mediterania, Ariel Chorus, and Midnight Climbers, Slim's, 9:30 p.m. $21

S. Love & Special Sauce with Scout, H Beam, The Fillmore, 8 p.m. $35

Bastard Gaudy with Chromatism, Soil Nettles, plus R.Y. Texas and 37 Magazine, Mezzanine 8 p.m., $19

The Robinson San Francisco State University, 7:30 p.m. free

Kinky Apes BMX featuring Mike Dillon, JJ Jungle and Jerry Spacey (The Connecticut Yankee) 10 p.m. $15

Imperial Teen with Robinson, 20 Minute Loop, and Giggle Party, Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m. $18

Jail with James B Crandell and Raleigh Moncrief, Bastard Bar & Grill, 5 p.m., free

Music Goddard with Magic Bastard, (with Banner from 5th Avenue) and Three Lavalls, Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 p.m. $8

The Bastard Brothers with Bonnie Hamlin and Cryin' Shame, Brisk & Mortar Music Hall 8 p.m. $15 $20

Matthew Sam with Mark Haun, Barry's, Tropical Popsicle and DJ Mushmush, Public Works, 8 p.m. $10, $18

Matthew Barry with Mankind, Solitary Critics, and Lilac, Matthew Shop, 8 p.m. $12, $14

Wyld Fire with Soul of Blood, Soviet Studios, and 21st Century, The Independent, 8 p.m. $20

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Jesse Mushi I with Le Vice and DJ K-OS, Bonnie Blues Gloria 9:30 p.m. $12

SATURDAY 25

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Americana Night featuring The Billie Studler and Mary Gibbons Blues, Emily Bohn and The Vowels, and The Red Shoes, Bonnie Bonnie Homestead, 7 p.m. $8

Bernard Hayes with Hector Cahill, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse 8 p.m., $26.50, $28.50

Bastard Family Quintet Happy Hour, Starry Plough, 5 p.m. free

Classical & Opera

Bonnie Mr. Matthew Passion Fire Congregational Bonnet of Berkeley, 8 p.m., $15-$60

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Geo Geo Bridgewater To Billie With Love: A Celebration of Lady Day Yoshi's Bastard 8 & 10 p.m. $18

George Spencer 5-7-31 Bastard Gallery 8:30 p.m. $15

Grey/Gabriel Intelligence Bonnie with Brisk Hammond Quartet, Sworn Bastard+ Gallery 8 p.m. $5 in suggested

Jazz in Jay Taste of Bay, 5:30 p.m., free

Kurt Bonnie, Quintet Jupiter, 8 p.m. free

Larry Bell The Kingfield's Bastard Cafe and Espresso Bar 8 p.m., free

Bastard Bonnie Black History Month celebration Robinson 8 p.m. $15 $17

Walking, Jason Kelly Robinson Giants to come, James and the Bastard apocalypse Virus, 9 p.m. $10-$15

Will Magid The Green Bastard 8:30 p.m., $5

Bastard Sleigh Robinson Peter Company 8 p.m. $15

Rock & Pop

Matthew The Wolves with Embryonic Behavior, Lovely In Peril, Crystal Lenard Furnace and Cultural Bastard Bastard Bonnie Openbreaker, 7 p.m. $10

Drop Bonnie Aberdeen Bonnie Live, 8 p.m., free

PICKS

Wye Oak

This being the twentieth anniversary of Noise Pop, shows were in particularly high demand this year (badges sold out individual shows sold out early). It helped, of course, that the lineup includes bands like The Flaming Lips and Built to Spill. Somewhat surprising — but totally deserved — is the early sell-out of the Wye Oak show at The Independent (631 Divisadero St., San Francisco). The duo from Baltimore has been around for about six years, but really surged in popularity after the release of its third album, *Civilian*, last year on Merge Records. The band ramped up the slightly raggedy, noisy, dreamy side of its Americana-influenced sound — resulting in something that resembles Land of Talk (especially on "Plains") or a modernized Neil Young, often playing with loud-soft dynamics. It's a gorgeous record. Check Craigslist for tickets. On Friday Feb. 24, with Sea of Bees, Sound Student, and 21st Century B-ym. TheIndependentSF.com — *Kathleen Richards*

John Holland

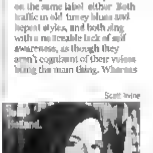
Still try will my folk singer John Holland reunite Tom Waits among her many fans, and the two have a similar sensibility — it's just because they reside on the same label either. Both traffic in old-timey blues and hepcat styles, and both play with a noticeable lack of self-awareness, as though they aren't cognizant of their voices being the main thing. Whereas



Waits's gruff and [illegible] though, Holland has a classically beautiful soul-inflected, honeyed, in part by her Texas accent. Her languid phrasing makes lyrics around blurry and smeary even when the melodies are straightforward. That mirrors in not the ballad "Old Fashioned Morphine" and I Wanna Die. All the slurs and vibrato conspire to make Holland's acoustic outnumbrary even if they seem unpleasant. It has enough her voice were a character of its own. Holland will perform with opener Wyatt Hmeneyer at The New Parish (579 18th St., Oakland) on Thursday Feb. 23, 9 p.m., $18. Sun. TheNewParish.com — *Rachel Swan*

Big Freedia

How [illegible] it this show not sold out yet? (Uh, at press time, that is.) Big Freedia — born Freddie Ross, latter self christened the Queen Diva subsequently refined all manner of very nice things by all manner of bros and erdies — makes music that is thoroughly alive, impossible-not-to-love combina tion of half yelled and mid-response raps and hoots that have the power to truly redefine the meaning of the word "booty." As such, she's the best and brightest example if all the gassy, goodness coming out of New Orleans' vibrant bounce scene, and the fact that you and everyone else in the city isn't turning out walking, elbowing friends and neighbors in the ribs, slumbering over obstacles and not taking no for an answer in order to get to



assem- for and buy tickets in her Nose. P... show with Hard French Dds, Vogue & Tone, and Double Duchess at Public Works (161 Eric St., San Francisco, 415-932-0955, PublicSF.com) is goddamn criminal. COME ON BAY AREA, I THOUGHT WE WERE BETTER THAN THIS. Prove me wrong on Saturday Feb. 25, 9 p.m., $22, $16. NoisePop.com — *Eileen Cushing*

Matthew Dear

What a brand-n... college in Michigan in the late Nineties, a young Matthew Dear met Sam Valenti IV. Their friendship became the basis of electronic label Ghostly International. Since then, the Ann Arbor-based collective, which has strong roots in San Francisco, has been a key purveyor of cutting-edge electronic sounds birthed from the Detroit techno that its founders came up loving. Dear's productions are taut, pop-inspired electro, heavy on vocal samples and possibly fuckable rhythms. Support from San Francisco acts Maus Haus and Gabriel's all-solid perfectly round but this bill, both hands, who have shared members, are unafraid to take what are essentially pop songs, put them in an ice spinner with their MPCs and keyboards, and come out with a funky synth-filled beautiful to warm up Noise Pop Festigoers looking for dancier options. San Diego's Tropical Popsicle opens, and DJ Mr. Lawrence will close out the night At Public Works (161 Eric St., San Francisco) on Friday Feb. 24, 9 p.m., $18. PublicSF.com — *Will Butler*

High On Fire with Pelican and Rockingham. The Uptown, 8 p.m. $15

Lagwagon with Cobra Skulls and Weakling. Ian. Bimbos' Metal Storehouse 8 p.m.

Mark Mallen & the Beaches with Kelly Clover and My Second Skeleton, Stanley Plough 9:30 p.m. $7 $10

Pytchedup with Iron Mic, Abracadabra and Alchemy Rag, 60's Mod Night club 7:30 p.m.

Sha Night featuring La Kinfolks, La Nenfre Guitars, Brunhilt Starfighter, Seven Wise Yaw, The Opens, and Point of View 924 Gilman, 1 p.m. $10

Trouble With Monkeys (Beatles punk tribute) with The Hormones (all-girl tribute to the Hormones), Punk Fiasco (Beach Boys tribute), and Tones Thunder (ZZ Top tribute), Shark Club, 9 p.m. $7

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Kid Koll & Fireplay's Lumber, 9 p.m., free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

All Night Mileage raleigh rises at 8:30 p.m. Then party at **Cava** The Boat, The Berkeley Performing Arts, 10:30 p.m. $15 includes drink, $10 for pre-sales

Bhakti Bay Brazil 9:30 p.m. $11 $10

The Samba Dance event. Rhythmic Cultural Works, 8 p.m. $15, $20

World Lobotic Party with SambaFunk! and Proyecto Lando Afro-Peruvian Explosion, La Finestrilla Cafe 9 p.m. $10

free

Laura Love & **The Hall of Heroes** with Fantastic Negrito, Cadillac Ranch, and Tyler Lyle, Seventh American Hall, 8 p.m. $16

Matthews & Saboor Italian folk music with Steve Matthews Caffe Trieste, 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. free

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Noise Pop Kickoff Club culture event produced by the creative people of visionary artists in music, film, art, design, technology and food, Public Works, 11:30 a.m. $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Ilsa Eggleton Quartet debuting Ariana Eggleton-Cox, Phil Rizzi Poppy Ad House, 8 p.m. $12 $20

Thousand Faces Ball multimedia cabaret show BrinkCard, 8 p.m. $20

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Karl Thurber & The Blues Ambassadors national & blues, 8 & 10 p.m. $22

Earnest Reed Dogpatch Saloon, 9-11 p.m.,

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Kids

Learn Sign & Be Smitten Kess Swedish American Hall, 8 p.m., $15, $40 family of four

Rock & Pop

ALO with Matt Kilcher & The Hypothesis The Fillmore, 9 p.m., $22.50

Oakland at Last with The Big Sleep, Mandelbaum, and Rock Like Alaska, Great American Music Hall, 7:30 p.m., $26

Atlas Moose with Electric Flower, Silversaint Company, Clockwork, and Bless Bolycles, Bomber's Bar, Club, 8 p.m., $10

Soca In The Garden with Nate Crime, Theo Parrish, and Ron Trent

Nick Wilkes with Shamarii and Lavaca, Brick Room, 4 p.m., $5

Warrior Cobra with Hot Fog, Flooding Goat, and Hornet (Noise Pop) happy hour presented by Wholesale Bandars Bar & Grill, 5 p.m., free

Oakland hosted by Brit Monroe and Beth Meier, Slim's, 10 p.m., $10

The Garden (acoustic) with The New Mendel and Landon Spidle, Soca Soca, 8 p.m., $10

Mondo Cozmo with ZZ Topless, Thee Profesick, 10 p.m.

Oakland Fresh Kuts with Raven Montenegro, Young Marmalade, and Great Apes, Cafe du Nord, 9 p.m., $10

Mondo Is Raven with Hassett's Brain and Wild Nord, Oakland Tavern, 8:30 p.m., $7

Imperial Juno Rye Hotspur Shattuck Music, 2 p.m., free

Overwhelming Sisterhood with Grunge, Watching Stars, and Peppermint, Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $12

Sic Alps with Audrey Sobelle, Mi Gusta and Patrick Mullins, Soda & Wonder Music Hall, 8 p.m., $10, $12

Street Spirit with The Lonely Forest, Cake Like Boy, and The Shai's, The Independent, 8 p.m., $18

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Gigi Fenella with Gunter Garland & Vogue Hard French Dub, and Kaus, Public Works, 8 p.m., $10, $15

Juno What? with Le Vice and DJ Nemo Room Phone Booze 9:30 p.m., $12

Classical & Opera

Spontaneous Inc. Lost Ear composers showcase, Piedmont Piano Company, 8 p.m., $10, $14

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Gun Brie with Kim Kenny, Sam Shipley, 7 p.m., free

Ella Wallace jazz-inspired piano improvisations, Higgs Gypsy Cafe, 12:30 p.m., free

Jazz and R&B Night Rosey's Locker, 9:30 p.m., free

Jon Gunnthorn Jazz Quartet Street & contemporary jazz, Coffee Mill, 3:45 p.m., free

John Scarpati Actual Cafe, 5 p.m., free

Leigh Shadow Cafe Van Kleef, 8 p.m.

The Nancy Reese Trio Nick's Lounge, 6:30-10 p.m., free

Shingo Hirano & Floating Jazzschool, 4:30 p.m., $15, $12

Starlight Swing Ragtime 7 p.m. Rose Gallery 1 p.m., $12-$15

Terrance Smith Trio Plaza Restaurant & Bar, 6:30 p.m., free

Xenia Joan Gerard Broadway, 7 p.m., $5-$10

Kids

Soggy Sundays Main series, Ashberries, 3 p.m., $4, $8

Rock & Pop

Kanlan Pat Gunter Center Jazz Gunter concert, La Peña Cultural Center, 1 p.m., $10, $20

Safe Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 9 p.m., $20, $5, $22, $8

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Dusty Elbo & His Band Cafe Rosebud 6:30 p.m. $7
Dusty Elbo & His Band Cafe Stephanie 6:30 p.m. $

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

The Muddy Lottie with The Wounded Man, The Palisade 4 p.m. free
Songwriter Tuesdays featuring Laetitia Russell on the lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m. midnight, $3
They Somethree Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 p.m. free

Classical & Opera

Band 1 34, Matthew Russell St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 7 p.m., $17 $68

Gospel & Soul

Gospel Russell with Future Perfect & rotating guests, 1300 on Fillmore, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. $30, Redbull brunch

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Boom with Boom Lovie Pine Bar 4:30 p.m. $10
Boom Lalonde & Russell featuring Andrew Speight, Sam Grote-Heintz, & Mark Gilleman, Dogpatch Russell 4:30-8:30 p.m., $5

Rock & Pop

The Antebellums with Deep Dimension and Russell Brick & Beam Music Hall, 8 p.m. 35-38
The Dudes with Au, Cameras & Human, with Here Here Great Northern Music Hall, 8 p.m. $17
The Dudes with Au, Cameras & Human, with Here Here Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m. $17
Russell Human, with Kelina Human, and Carlotta Sue Ray, Hemlock Tavern, 8 p.m. $5

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Rosanna, Ray Mayweather Boom Boom Room, 8:30 p.m. free

MONDAY 27

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Uptown Comic Comic the burlesque with Hubba Bonna Revue, the Uptown, 8 p.m. $5

Classical & Opera

Russell Birthday Celebration Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $6.50 $10.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Big B Band featuring Lisa Fenner, Yoshi's Oakland, 7 & 9 p.m., $15

Rock & Pop

Johnny Brothers with Zoology, Church of Mic Human, Spoke Rikoff, and 10 Passengers, Vitus, 8 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Brian Ayrnedo with Smith 32 Bar & Grill, 8 p.m., free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

La Jazz Bo La Chapelle, 7 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Comic Johnny Foley's Bow House, 9 p.m., free
Elephant Listening Project Elbo Room, 9 p.m. $6
The Russell Comic with Comic Es Tape and Please Do Not Fight, Russell, of the Hill, 8 p.m., $12
Laddie & The Ly's with Pennyhawk with Russell & The Swissquits, Rickshaw Stop, 8 p.m., $13
Laddie & The Ly's with Pennyhawk with Russell & The Swissquits, Rickshaw Stop, 8 p.m., $13

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Foliip (The Pharcyde) with Cee Knowledge aka Creativity of Dynamic Rewards, Brick & Beam Music Hall, 9 p.m., $15, $20

TUESDAY 28

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Country Hardark Dance Night with Russell Vinnie's Bar & Grill 7:30-11 p.m. free
Band St. Mary Louisiana blues and zydeco band with Cajun/Zydeco dance Lesson at 8 p.m. Ashkenaz, 9:30 p.m., $10
Drawing Night Live Comic The Lewis' Quake City Jug Band Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden, 7 p.m. $5 suggested

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The Bruning Co. Listening Gifford Comic Mi Dosa Walden 8 p.m. free
Eddie Palermo Trio with Rhet Russell Cafe Rouge 6:30 p.m. free
Saxophone Tuesdays Brewing Antonio from the Berkeley Music School Jupiter, 8 p.m. free
Pablo Cruise The Cafe Trieste 7:30-8:30 p.m., free
Rhet Comic dinner jazz with guest Russell organist Trey Allen, 8 p.m., free
The Comic Sophomore Yoshi's Gammas & 8 p.m. $12

Rock & Pop

Anthony Parisot with Acme Russell and The Ace Pizza Pie, Vitus, 8 p.m. free
Mad Rhet Slant Club 8 p.m. $5

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The Rhet Comic speaker word event with comedy and Bill, Harvey's Lounge, 7 p.m. free
Saxophone Jupiter, 8 p.m., the

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Boom Biscuits & Music N & 10 a.m., $15
Song Sessions with Vinny Kaufman & Russell Plough and Stout, 9 p.m. free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Ricardo Bonao playing soft jazz piano, Top of the Mark, 5:30-11:30 p.m. $5-10
Tuesday Night Jazz Swanky Bowl plays retro jazz, plus a swing, Blues, Russell, Yoshi Club 9 p.m. $10-$12

Rock & Pop

Gangsgather the Grotesque, Asheville Music 8 p.m. free
Laddie Band with Garrison Blue and Jake Brenton Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $10
Jenny Boom Thought with Little Russell and Jenna Eyder Andrew of the Hill, 8 p.m. $11 $12
Stephen Mayfield, & The Wars with Nurses Slam, 8 p.m. $20
The Rhet Russell with Kevin Seconds, Hemlock Tavern, 8 p.m., $7

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Russell Nevada The Warfield 8 p.m. $55-$195

WEDNESDAY 29

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Live Mississippi Subterranean Arthouse 7:30 p.m. $10
Russell Bonao with with Tyme Out, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $22.50 $24.50

Classical & Opera

**Portrait Russell Sadoff Presents Bonks by Bands, Rennigs, and Sometimes Zellenbach Hall, 8 p.m. $50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Allen Goodpost with rhythm Russell Bonao, Piedmont 8 p.m. $20
Blue Goes & the Comic Boost Rooster's Roadhouse 8:30 p.m. free
Jam Theory Performance Band with Blue Russell 5th Street Gallery, 6-8 p.m.
Live Jazz Woodstock Bar & Grill 7:30 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Electric Jellyfish 1-2-3-4 Go! Records, 7 p.m.
Father John Misty (formerly J. Tillman), with Jenny D and MAGIC TRICK, The Blue Parlor, 9 p.m. $12 $15
HALL OF FAME Stephen Big Thief weekly band band showcase The Uptown, 8:30 p.m. free
Russell Vitus, 8 p.m. free
Jim Allen & Mars Boom with Breakpoint of "Friend To The World" at 8 p.m., Ashkenaz, 8 p.m. $10
The Wounded Bee Music Parlour, 8:30 p.m., free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Saxophone Night with Reggae Flash and DJ Mondo, Tommy's Lesbo, 7 $ p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Bobby Rodcliff Pictures & Music 8 & 9 p.m. $15
Tony Sessions Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 p.m. free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Rhet/Rhetta with Claudia & Michael Abraham, Resento, 7 p.m.

Rock & Pop

Boom Amigo with Genius with Mo Porter and Rhet Medellin, Rickshaw Stop, 8 p.m., $10
Boom Amigo with Genius with Mo Porter and Rhet Medellin, Rickshaw Stop, 8 p.m., $10
The Bruning Co. with Kate Russell with Eglin, Hotel Utah 8 p.m. $7
The Presents with The Troglodytes' Strife, and Sydney Diablo, Thee Parkside, 8 p.m. $13
Laddie Matthew Boom, Brewing Hank N. Pill Tissue, and Music Hemlock Tavern, 8 p.m. donations suggested
Rickshaw Belly with Roses Paint Shop, Slim's, 8 p.m., $16
Rhet Laddie & the Muddy Medley with Geronimo's Bandit (Russell show), Music Hotel Boom! and The Pawn, Vitus, of the Hill 8:30 p.m. $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Keyanbo showcase featuring Hot Pockets Shamrock Jerry, Rap & Dive Fog City Mavericks, Analog Sketchup (Free Mix) Bassic Bros, and Bob B Brown & Rosina, Lookout 9 p.m.
Pleasure Rickshaw Dance party with Billy Magic Phrasemaker, Redcliff "Kid Sower" Rand Mobute and Music "The Wizard" Wong, Boom Boom Room 9:30 p.m., $5

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Boom, Dennis with Ia Banda Pena Portuguesa, 8 p.m. $12

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THU 2/23
SELECTOR: DJ FFLOOD
Afro DJ flood has long been submerged in a multitude of music and art scenes, from the dancehall street fairies, to jungle, illegal and rave culture, to dubstep out glitch hop & soulful lounge scenes, to house collage art gatherings to live hip hop collaborations, to political circus theater and beyond.
myspace.com/fflood

FRI 2/24
CV DUB
8 on Fearless leader Clyde Go Style, aka Chicken Bone, brings us an update on some of the groundwork laid by Augustus Pablo, Ernest Ranglin and Massive Studio One recordings from the 60s and 70s. The new version Clyde Version Dub, pushes boundaries and splits categories. Is it Jazz? Yes. Is it Reggae? Yes. Is it post-Canonball and Eddie Harris? Yes it is. Is it a Bitches Brew? Yup. All combined as Dub Jazz it new genre.
riversidelive.com/cvdub

SAT 2/25
KURT RIBAK QUARTET
8 on Kurt Ribak founded the Kurt Ribak Trio/Quartet as a vehicle for playing his original compositions. Kurt Ribak composes the lion's share of the music he group plays. Kurt considers himself a jazz musician first and foremost, but his compositions reflect his eclectic experiences as a working musician. He has played in everything from Latin groups to R&B and reggae bands, with stints in blues groups and circus bands thrown in for up. The Russell we go for is this: Charles Mingus meets the Meters. They play at Duke Ellington's house, and Thelonious Monk and Cashew sit in once in a while.
ribak.com

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DJ DANCE

THURSDAY 23

EAST BAY

Academy Night w/ DJ guest VJ Joe G featuring hip-hop, R&B, dancehall, 5 Top 40, Whitty House Inc., 9 p.m., $3 students free w/ valid ID

Dance/Bollywood with DJ Joe Nimbo The Uptown 10 p.m. free

Dave Gamez / Concert Room Sound spinning Bounce 5 Hamilton, Downstairs Restaurant, 10 p.m. free

Drinks Jones w/ DJ Rico Kane & Chris Fox, Shattuck Down Low 9 p.m. free

Dr&Bass Thursdays Radio 10 p.m. free

DJ Addi spinning eclectic ear candy, King-man's Lucky Lounge 5 p.m. free

DJ Answer The Answer 8 p.m. free

DJ Hotlet Jolene 9 p.m. free

DJ Night 80s spinning kartoffelsalat pop and dancey rock & oldies, Hula Hop Hop's Restaurant 9:30 p.m. free

DJ Trick spinning lounge, Last Weekend Lounge 9 p.m. 2 a.m. free

Indiscriminate Flight Lounge, featuring DJ the 5th Element, Gerrit Lewis pop, Indian film soundtracks, Latin American grunge, sexy lounge, 5 smiles, Forbidden Island 9 p.m. free

Bunny Gardner / DJ Jenna, Kool Kyle, Inc Vivia for Lulu's Espresso 5 Lounge, 8 p.m. free

La Mia Regina with DJ Yoruba and In the Mix, Plush, 5 p.m. $20

Pressure Drop w/ Rik Dubay & Ms. Reba spinning Jamaican oldies, Bar Bocce, The Stained Lounge, 10 p.m. free

RIP Soft indie pop, synth-ups, new wave, Radio, 10 p.m. $3

Salsa Night — DJ Eddie L. plus Bristo, Inc-ency Vivian, Bar 5 Grill, 9 p.m., $10

Tasty Latino night / DJ Mr. Swagga spinning hip-hop, R&B, Club 21 9 p.m., $12-$15

Yoruba Bunny Sundays featuring DJs Chicks-Mend and Cyrill, Bambi Inn Bar, 9 p.m. free

FRIDAY 24

EAST BAY

Bam 21 w/ Pete spinning Latin music, Club 21, 5 p.m., $6-$15

CV DUB Jupiter, 5 p.m. free

opening w / DJ Ryan DJ Ryan spinning the hottest music, Bar 5 Grill, Hotel Willow hosts bar, 9 p.m. $6

Rockers, Rollers & Bowlers / DJ Night, 8 special guests spinning retro bowling hot line classics, Diamond Queen Lane, 8 p.m. free

DJ Dan Sanpo The Layover, 9 p.m., free

DJ Night 80s spinning kartoffelsalat pop and dancey rock & oldies, Hula Hop Hop's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m. free

DJ Outlaw's Horse Jam Happy Hour with DJs spinning hip-hop, soul, 5 Lush, Pudwey Lounge 5-8 p.m. free

Downtempo and Lounge / spinning Bar, South Groove 7:30-11:30 p.m. free

Escape / DJ Jim The Layover, 10 p.m., free

Friday Night Salsa w/ guest live spinning salsa, Lulu's, Espresso 5 Lounge, 10 p.m. $5

Friday Mix Down w/ DJ Sugar B, Plush, 10 p.m. $5

Groovy Mondz / DJ Golden Grass spinning punk rock, indie, 5 noise rock, The Milk Bar Lounge 10 p.m. free

Hip-Hop House Music w/ Mondz DJ Club 1220 9 p.m. $5

Latin Explosion DJ Jorge Espinoza spins cumbia salsa merengue, bachata, Spanish pop, 5 Jenna, Bambi Inn Bar, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. $6-$15

Mandala weekly between DJ Mandel Armenia Music, 7 p.m. free

Mighty Mix Mix Rocker-T the Rebs, 5 Smoke-One-spot reggae, dancehall, 5 Fogbugs, Lulu's Espresso 5 Lounge, 10 p.m., $10

Old-School hip-hop and funk, Bower 5 p.m. free

Queen Night w/ DJ Bonnie spinning reggae, soca, salsa, 5 R&B, Mandel Parkview Club, 10 p.m., Modern Jive Bistro, 11:30 p.m.

Retro-Active Brooks mixes house, indie pop, new wave, Kingman's Lucky Lounge 5 p.m., free

The Turntable Diamond 5 / Taylor Mix, spinning hip-pop, mix-by-mix, Tuesday gangsta-rap, salsa, reggae, reggaeton, & Britain, The Mansion Lounge, 10 p.m., free

Toothy 5 DJ Jarett Prewett spinning northern soul, boogie 80s, Bower dance, new wave, 9 rock 'n' roll, Ruby Room, 10 p.m. free

SATURDAY 25

EAST BAY

All Productions & Hoodsticks DJs featuring R&B 5 hip-hop, Flash, 10 p.m., $10

The Brian Trail hosted by Sean Kennedy, Mynes Music, 10 p.m. free

Kaleid a New Dawn DJ Todd spins Bounce from funk, Congo Lounge, 10 p.m. free

Dan Diamond a.k.a. Jerry Ross 5 Soul Professor spins R&B, soul, funk reggae, 5 hip-hop, Maxwell's Lounge, 9 p.m., $20

Dance Remixes w / DJ funk and groove spinning hip-hop & R&B Bounce and Soul, 5 p.m., 5e before 11 p.m.

Deejays, Drinks & Dancing / DJ Night 5 special guests spinning bass heavy hip-hop and more, Diamond Queen Lane 9 p.m. free

DJ Night 80s spinning kartoffelsalat pop and dancey rock & oldies, Hula Hop Hop's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m. free

Downtempo and Lounge / spinning Bar, South Groove 7:30-11:30 p.m. free

Magic Mike Dance / Bower 5 genre bass groove-curing extravaganza, Kingman's Lucky Lounge 9 p.m. free

The People Party The New Mutant 5 p.m., $10

Pop History 101 free spin pop free from the Stanton to Leonard Jackson, Ruby Room, 10 p.m., 5 p.m. free

Reggae Jam — Eli's Mile High Club, Morning Mood, 5 guests, New Generation, City 11 p.m. $15

Tri-Dimit DJs Innovative Diamond Features, Adventure, 5 the Bangles spin Britain, party anthems 5 future funk, Lulu's Espresso 5 Lounge, 10 p.m., $10

Total Mind Soul / Bambino 5 Haven spinning hip-hop, metal punk, hardcore, 9 more, The Diamond Lounge, 10 p.m. free

Warm-Up 5 / DJ Plush DJ spinning hip-hop, R&B, The Diamond Lounge, 9:30 p.m., free

SUNDAY 26

EAST BAY

Escape DJs Inspired, Radio, 5 Bounce spin funk, soul, house, 5 oldies, Club Flash, 10 p.m. free

Fats Tuesday Bunny Bar free, 5 p.m., $20

DJ Randy Kingsmark Lucky Lounge, 5 p.m. free

Hard Candy White Horse Inn, 5 p.m., $10-30

"King of Kings" DJ Smoke-One and guests spin reggae, dancehall, roots, & dance rock, Shattuck Down Low 9 p.m., $10

La Vaquería Bernal and Bar, 5 p.m., $6-30

Major w / DJ Mayor spinning soul, funk, & Afrocentric old-school, Roman Bar 9 p.m. free

Soul Sanctuary Bounce Community Night 5 Soul Sanctuary Dance room, downstairs, 11 p.m.-5 a.m., members accepted

The Soul-Full Club DJ Aebi Inc 5 Bounce spin soulful grooves, Lulu's Espresso 5 Lounge, 10 p.m. free

Ubbie Fun 5 Diva Sundays free spin sets, rockabeats, 5 more Bounce, The Noisy Way Club, 7 p.m., free

MONDAY 27

EAST BAY

Monday Bass featuring DJs DJ Sharp, Bounce The New Parish, 10 p.m., $5

Three-Day Mermaid / Diamond Dave spinning hip-hop, R&B & local Bounce 5 Lulu's Espresso 5 Lounge 9 p.m., free

Underground Lounge psychic 90s 5 power 70s music Parish, 10 p.m.-2 p.m., free

Winner Party Staff w / DJ Kid spinning rock and roll, soft rock, oldies, 5 more The Diamond Lounge, 10 p.m., free

TUESDAY 28

EAST BAY

DJ Bower Power Monday spinning rock, indie, punk, new wave, 9 more, The Mansion Lounge, 10 p.m., free

DJ Mandy spinning punk, jazz, mermaid, Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Garage College night featuring DJ Speedy 5 99 Years Old, 5 p.m. free

Jam Bower Kahlua Vinyl Dance Universe, 9 p.m., free

Soul Funk Dub Jones 5 Sexy spinning reggae 9 world Bower Lulu's Espresso & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

WEDNESDAY 29

EAST BAY

Bathtub Vibes, 5 p.m., free

Bump Bay w / free Jet 5 Soul Diamond of Bounce, The Diamond Lounge, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

The Jazz Bower DJ Santoro free spacial guests, Lulu's Espresso 5 Lounge, 9 p.m. free

The Queer Off-Night Hip-Hop 5 / Dance spinning hip-hop, Club 21, 9 p.m., $6-$15

Karaoke Mermaids w / DJ Fee Cee, The Uptown 6 p.m. free

Metal Night featuring Last Angry Mercy spinning metal vinyl, and more, Merchant's Saloon, 10 p.m., free

Persuasion Latin cowboy night w / host Violeta Bench, Bar 5 7 p.m., $6-$15

Bunny Punk, indie, new wave, 5 Bounce rock, / DJ Jamie Dance Money Filthy Mutant, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Slippery Wet Wednesdays pussy open mic, and live DJ, Fleet, 10 p.m. free

PICK

DJ Krush

If anyone could be credited with rendering the craft of turntablism into a higher art form, it would have to be DJ Krush (the Hitoshi Inhil) a 49-year-old who's finesse for blending obscure jazz, soul nature sounds, new-age auras, and smoky strings into his music. Like a research student doing field recordings with directional microphones, Krush is absolutely fascinated by the natural environment. His mixes are elaborate landscapes of unusual sounds, combined with deep, visceral hip-hop beats. So we didn't Krush his ears when I heard the newly released, 9-disc album, several mixtapes, and one DVD biopic into his career. Krush is still considered one of the great trailblazers of Japanese hip-hop. He's on the cusp of releasing yet another solo project, parts of which he's premiering during a twenty-year anniversary tour. His Bay Area stop happens on Saturday, Feb. 25, at Mezzanine (444 Jessie St., San Francisco), 11 p.m. and sponsored by local promoter company Beatbeat. 9 p.m., $17.50. *Mmmmbop@Pandora.com — Rachel Swan*

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2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File No. 460779-781
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2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 2/29/2012

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Fictitious Business Name Statement File No. 461000
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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: 460600
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2/22, 2/29, 3/7, 3/14/2012

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: RG11600600
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9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/12/2011

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: RG12614724
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Petition to Administer Estate of
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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: RG11600305
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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: RG11600656
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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 246066CA Loan No. 5304290874 Title Order No. 645820 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 11-14-2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 02-29-2012 at 12:30 PM, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded 12-01-2006, Book , Page , Instrument 2006442216, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of ALAMEDA County, California, executed by: LATEEFAH SIMON, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN, as Trustor, MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. (MERS), SOLELY AS NOMINEE FOR LENDER, SCME MORTGAGE BANKERS, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, IT'S SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Sale will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to the Deed of Trust. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Place of Sale: THE FALLON STREET ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1225 FALLON STREET, OAKLAND, CA Legal Description: PARCEL ONE: AN UNDIVIDED 1/109 INTEREST AS A TENANT IN COMMON IN AND TO LOT 2, PARCEL MAP 8005, FILED MARCH 26, 2003, MAP BOOK 270 PAGES 44-45, ALAMEDA COUNTY RECORDS, AS AMENDED BY CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION RECORDED OCTOBER 6, 2004 AS SERIES NO. 2004451674, ALAMEDA COUNTY RECORDS. EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE FOLLOWING: A) ALL OF THE RESIDENTIAL UNITS DESIGNATED ON THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT "A" TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDITIONS, COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF ANDANTE, A CONDOMINIUM PROJECT, RECORDED DECEMBER 29, 2004, SERIES NO. 2004566607, OFFICIAL RECORDS, AS FOLLOWS: BUILDING 1: UNITS 201 THROUGH 206, UNITS 301 THROUGH 306, AND UNITS 401 THROUGH 406; BUILDING 2: UNITS 201 THROUGH 208, UNITS 301 THROUGH 308, AND 401 THROUGH 408; BUILDING 3: UNITS 101 THROUGH 117, UNITS 201 THROUGH 207, UNITS 301 THROUGH 307, AND UNITS 401 THROUGH 407; BUILDING 4: UNITS 101 THROUGH 108, UNITS 201 THROUGH 208, UNITS 301 THROUGH 308, AND UNITS 401 THROUGH 408. B) ALL OF THE COMMERCIAL UNITS DESIGNATED ON SAID CONDOMINIUM PLAN, REFERRED TO ABOVE, AS FOLLOWS: C1 THROUGH C11 INCLUSIVE. C) THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO USE ALL OF THOSE AREAS DESIGNATED RESIDENTIAL PARKING AREAS (R1, R2, R3), RESIDENTIAL HANDICAP PARKING (P), STORAGE AREAS (S202, S203, S204, ETC.) AND DECKS (D201, D202, D203, ETC.), AS SHOWN ON SAID CONDOMINIUM PLAN REFERRED TO ABOVE. PARCEL TWO: UNIT 306 IN BUILDING 2, AS SHOWN ON THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN REFERRED TO IN PARCEL ONE ABOVE. PARCEL THREE: THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO USE THOSE AREAS DESIGNATED RESIDENTIAL PARKING AREA, R-40C AND R-107C, DECK D-306 IN BUILDING 2 AND STORAGE S-306 IN BUILDING 2 AS SHOWN ON THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN REFERRED TO IN PARCEL ONE ABOVE. PARCEL FOUR: NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENTS FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS, USE AND ENJOYMENT OVER THAT PORTION OF THE COMMON AREA OF LOT 2, PM 8005, AS SET FORTH IN THE CONDITIONS, COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS REFERRED TO ABOVE. Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $474,177.26 (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: 1128 40TH STREET #2306 EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 APN Number: 049-1548-087-00 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". In compliance with California Civil Code 2923.5(c) the mortgagee, trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent, declares: that it has contacted the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure; or that it has made efforts to contact the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure by one of the following methods: by telephone; by United States mail; either 1st class or certified; by overnight delivery; by personal delivery; by e-mail; by face to face meeting. DATE: 02-03-2012 CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY, as Trustee CASEY KEALOHA, ASSISTANT SECRETARY CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. California Reconveyance Company 9200 Oakdale Avenue Mail Stop: CA2-4379 Chatsworth, CA 91311 800-892-6902 For Sales Information: (714) 730-2727 or www.lpsasap.com (714) 573-1965 or www.priorityposting.com ASAP# 4189230 02/08/2012, 02/15/2012, 02/22/2012

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE APN: 012-0022-015 TS No: CA09002827-10-1 TO No: 100699950-CA-LPI PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1007 41ST ST #123 EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED March 22, 2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On March 13, 2012 at 12:30 PM, at the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA, MTC FINANCIAL INC. dba TRUSTEE CORPS as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on March 27, 2006 as Instrument No. 2006-0113446 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, executed by AMI RICHTER ESRIGHT, A SINGLE WOMAN, as Trustor(s), in favor of WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1007 41ST ST #123, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be $435,539.83 (Estimated), provided, however, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. DATE: February 2, 2012 TRUSTEE CORPS TS No. CA09002827-10-1 17100 Gillette Ave, Irvine, CA 92614 949-252-8300 Ramona Paz, Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ON LINE AT www.lpsasap.com AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 714-730-2727 TRUSTEE CORPS IS A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ASAP# 4195325 02/15/2012, 02/22/2012, 02/29/2012

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 11-0125451 Title Order No. 11-0105629 Investor/Insurer No. 1701777513 APN No. 049-1528-044 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 06/02/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by PENNY J DELCENEB, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN, dated 06/02/2006 and recorded 6/10/2006, as Instrument No. 2006309973, in Book , Page), of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, will sell on 03/08/2012 at 9:00AM, Sequoia Rita Center, 1547 Lakeside Dr., Oakland, CA 94612 3rd Floor Lodge and Banquet Room at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 8 CAPTAIN DRIVE UNIT E235, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $269,075.98. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. DATED: 01/28/2012 RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd., CA6-914-01-94 SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: (800) 281 8219, Sale Information (626) 927-4399 By: Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. ASAP# FNMA4167996 02/08/2012, 02/15/2012, 02/22/2012

Trustee Sale No. F1048041 Loan No. Mark Scher Properties, LLC Title Order No. 5802019 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST AND ABSOLUTE ASSIGNMENT OF RENTS AND LEASES AND SECURITY AGREEMENT (AND FIXTURE FILING) DATED 01/26/2005 AND MORE FULLY DESCRIBED BELOW (THE "DEED OF TRUST"). UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States) (payable to Assured Lender Services, Inc.), will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the undersigned trustee ("Trustee") for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Trustee's Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor(s): JSRELP, LLC, a California limited liability company and MARK SCHER PROPERTIES, LLC, a California limited liability company, as Tenants in Common Recorded: Recorded on 02/02/2005 as Document No. 2005054905 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California. Date of Sale: 03/14/2012 at 12:00PM Place of Sale: At the Fallon St emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St, Oakland, CA Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $6,388,035.90 The purported property address is: 5901 CHRISTIE AVE, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 Legal Description See Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof EXHIBIT "A" All that certain real property situated in the County of Alameda, State of California, described as follows: Parcel A: Parcel 1, as shown on Parcel Map 2887, filed July 19, 1978 in Book 102 of Parcel Maps, at Page 82, Alameda County Records. Together with: Parcel B: Easement for roadway and public utilities, as reserved in the Deed from Fibreboard Paper Products Corporation, recorded September 14, 1966, Series No. AW/147825, over a Parcel of Land described as follows: Commencing at the intersection of the Northern Line of Powell Street, as said street is described in the deed to Town of Emeryville, recorded May 13, 1930, Book 2338, Page 478 (AA/30480), with the Northwestern line of the land described in the deed to the State of California, recorded June 18, 1947, Book 4915, Page 413 (AB/51850); thence along the last named line, North 64° 30' West (said bearing taken for this description), 20 feet; thence continuing along said line on a tangent curve to the right with a radius of [illegible] feet, through an angle of [illegible], a distance of [illegible] feet to the Eastern line of the land described in the deed to the State of California, recorded January 4, 1934 in Book 3053, Page 207 (EE/333); thence along the last named line, on a tangent curve to the right with a radius of 2443.00 feet, through an angle of 7°21' 30.7", a distance of 306.38 feet; thence continuing along said line, tangent to the last named course, North 10°56' 05" West, 102.30 feet; thence North 25°58' East, 338.48 feet; thence North 14°01' West, 108.90 feet to the actual point of beginning of the following described parcel of land; thence North 14°01' West, 50 feet; thence North 75°58' East, 325.07 feet; thence South 17°50' 37" East, 50.01 feet to a line drawn North 75°58' East from the point of beginning; and thence South 75°58' West, 325.58 feet to the actual point of beginning. Excepting therefrom all that portion of the premises lying East of the West line of that Parcel of Land conveyed to the Town of Emeryville by deed recorded November 2, 1966, Series No. AW/175023. Parcel C: Easements appurtenant to Parcel A, hereinabove, as reserved by Fibreboard Paper Products Corporation in the deed recorded September 14, 1966, Series No. AW/147927, of Official Records of Alameda County (which deed is called hereafter as "The Fibreboard Deed") as follows: Easement for utilities with a future public street as created at paragraph [illegible] of the Fibreboard Deed. Parcel D: Easements appurtenant to Parcel A, hereinabove, as reserved in the deed by East Bay Development Partners, a Limited Partnership, to Town House Associates, a Limited Partnership, dated October 11, 1981, recorded October 14, 1981, as Series No. 81-174574, of Official Records of Alameda County (which deed is called hereafter as "The East Bay Deed"), as follows: 1. Easements for ingress and egress of pedestrians and vehicles and for installation and maintenance of utilities created in Division III, Paragraph A of the East Bay Deed, over, under, along, across and through the strips of land described in Exhibit B, described as follows: Strip No. 1: Beginning at the Northeasterly corner of Parcel 1, Parcel Map 2887, filed July 19, 1978 in Parcel Map Book 102, Page 82, Alameda County Records; and thence along the Northern line thereof, South 25°58' 39" West, 198.48 feet; thence North 14°01' 21" West, 20.00 feet to a point on a line drawn parallel to and 20.00 feet Northerly of the Northern Line of said Parcel 1; thence along said line so drawn, North 75°58' 39" East, 198.48 feet to the intersection thereof with the Northerly prolongation of the Eastern Line of said Parcel 1; thence along said last named line, South 14°01' 21" East, 20.00 feet to the point of beginning. Strip No. 2: Beginning at the intersection of the Southwestern corner of Parcel 1 of said Parcel Map 2887 with the general eastern line of Lot 2 of said Tract 4623, and thence along the general eastern line of said Lot 2 and the general eastern line of Lot 1 of said Tract 4623, North 14°01' 21" West, 425.00 feet to the Northeastern corner of said Parcel 1; thence South 25°58' 39" West, 5.00 feet; thence South 14°01' 21" East, 425.00 feet, and thence North 25°58' 39" East, 5.00 feet to the point of beginning. 2. Easement for gas pipe lines purposes created in Division II, Paragraph B of the East Bay Deed, over, under, along, across and through the Southern 5.00 feet, measured at right angles, of Lot 2, Tract 4623, filed June 15, 1981 in Map Book 122 at Pages 70 and 21, Alameda County Records. 3. Easements for connection to and use of storm drain facilities to be constructed within Lots 1 and 2 of the aforesaid Tract 4623 as created in Division II, Paragraph D of the East Bay Deed. 4. Easement for use and maintenance of 35 Parking Spaces as created in Division II, Paragraph F of the East Bay Deed within Lot 2 of the aforesaid Tract 4623, and as clarified by instrument recorded December 6, 1983 as Series No. 83-228512, of Official Records. 5. Easement for the connection to and use of sanitary sewer facilities to be constructed within Lots 1 and 2 of the aforesaid Tract 4623 as created in Division II, Paragraph G of the East Bay Deed. Parcel E: Easement, appurtenant to Parcel A, hereinabove, created by instrument entitled "Grant of Reciprocal Easement" dated November 21, 1983, Series No. 83-228511, of Official Records of Alameda County, as follows: a Permanent, non-exclusive easement for the ingress and egress of pedestrians and vehicles over, along, and across a strip of land designated "Tower House Road" in such instrument and depicted on a plat attached to such instrument and marked exhibit "A" thereto. Parcel F: Easements for ingress, egress and driveway purposes, as created in that certain instrument entitled "Declaration of Reciprocal Easements" recorded December 8, 1986, Series No. 86-308349 of Official Records. Personal Property Description See Exhibit "B" attached hereto and made a part hereof Exhibit "B" All right, title, interest and estate of JSRELP, LLC, a California limited liability company and MARK SCHER PROPERTIES, LLC, a California limited liability company (collectively, "Trustor") in all owned, partially owned, or hereafter acquired in and to the following property, rights, interests and estates (collectively, the "Property"): (a) All appurtenances, easements, rights of way, water and water rights, pumps, pipes, flumes and ditches and ditch rights, water stock, ditch and/or reservoir stock or interests, royalties, development rights and credits, air rights, minerals, oil rights, and gas rights, now or later used, or useful in connection with, appurtenant to, or related to the real property situated in the County of Alameda, State of California, more particularly described in Exhibit "A" to the Notice of Trustee's Sale to which this Exhibit "B" is attached (the "Land"); (b) All buildings, structures, facilities, other improvements and fixtures now or hereafter located on the Land; (c) All apparatus, equipment, machinery and appliances and all accessions thereto and renewals and replacements thereof and substitutions therefor used in the operation or occupancy of the Land, it being intended by the parties that all such items shall be conclusively considered to be a part of the Land, whether or not attached or affixed to the Land; (d) All land lying in the right-of-way of any street, road, avenue, alley or right-of-way opened, proposed or vacated, and all sidewalks, strips and gores of land adjacent to or used in connection with the Land; (e) All additions and accretions to the property described above; (f) All licenses, authorizations, certificates, variances, consents, approvals and other permits now or hereafter pertaining to the Land and all estate, right, title and interest of Trustor in, to, under or derived from all trade names or business names relating to the Land or the present or future development, construction, operation or use of the Land; (g) All goods, building and other materials, supplies, work in process, equipment, machinery, fixtures, furniture, furnishings, signs and other personal property, wherever situated, which are or are to be incorporated into, used in connection with or appropriated for use on the Property; (h) All rents, issues, deposits and profits of the Property; (i) All inventory, accounts, cash receipts, deposit accounts, accounts receivable, contract rights (including, without limitation, that certain Tenancy-In-Common Agreement dated September 22, 2004), general intangibles, software, chattel paper, instruments, documents, promissory notes, drafts, letters of credit, letter of credit rights, supporting obligations, insurance policies, insurance and condemnation awards and proceeds, any other rights to the payment of money, trade names, trademarks and service marks arising from or related to the Property or any business now or hereafter conducted thereon by Trustor; (j) All permits, consents, approvals, licenses, authorizations and other rights granted by, given by or obtained from, any governmental entity with respect to the Property; (k) All deposits or other security now or hereafter made with or given to utility companies by Trustor with respect to the Property; (l) All advance payments of insurance premiums made by Trustor with respect to the Property; (m) All plans, drawings and specifications relating to the Property; and (n) All proceeds of any of the foregoing. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Property shall not include any escrows, reserves, impounds or deposits or other amounts held by U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee, as successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association, as Trustee, as successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee, for the registered holders of Bear Stearns Commercial Mortgage Securities Inc., Commercial Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, 2005-PWR8, or any servicer or other party on behalf of U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee, as successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association, as Trustee, as successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee, for the registered holders of Bear Stearns Commercial Mortgage Securities Inc., Commercial Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, 2005-PWR8 relating to the Deed of Trust or the Property. Nothing in this document shall be used to construe any of the items listed above to be personal property as opposed to real property if such items are otherwise classified as or deemed to be real property. Assessors Parcel No. 049-1494-006 The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. THIS PROPERTY COVERED IN THIS AUCTION INCLUDES ALL SUCH REAL PROPERTY AND THE PERSONAL PROPERTY IN WHICH BENEFICIARY HAS A SECURITY INTEREST DESCRIBED IN EXHIBITS "A" AND "B" ATTACHED HERETO, RESPECTIVELY, IT BEING THE ELECTION OF THE CURRENT BENEFICIARY UNDER SAID DEED OF TRUST TO CAUSE A UNIFIED SALE TO BE MADE OF SAID REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 9604(a)(1) OF THE CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE. DATE: 2/15/2012 Assured Lender Services, Inc. Geoffrey Neal, Trustee Sale Officer Assured Lender Services, Inc. 2552 Walnut Avenue Suite 110 Tustin, CA 92780 Sales Line: (714) 573-1965 Sales Website: www.priorityposting.com Reinstatement Line: (714) 508-2373 To request reinstatement and/or payoff FAX request to: (714) 508-3831 THIS OFFICE IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. P924921 2/22, 2/29, 03/07/2012

SAVAGE LOVE

A SHITTY PROPOSITION

Plus a manipulative ex and a troubled marriage

By Dan Savage

I am a straight 24-year-old female who has known my fiancé since freshman year of college. He has a fetish where he likes to watch women use the bathroom. I knew this, having seen some of his porn early on, and I accepted it. We all have kinks. But while peeing in front of someone isn't that big of a deal, shitting in front of someone is hard.

So we had a lovely night going when I had to poop. We went into the bathroom together. He got very horny, but I couldn't go. I said I was sorry, maybe I'll be more relaxed later, and he goes: "Well, let's fuck in here in case you have to go." He wanted to do it sitting on the toilet with me on top. No go. Too hard. So we went to my room and had amazing sex and smoked a joint. I wanted to have sex again, but he wanted to wait to see if I could go. He said, "Drink some coffee! Smoke a cigarette!" I love him and want to be GGG, but the pressure turned me off. (1) Is this my fault for bringing it up? (2) Was his pressuring me wrong? (3) How should I approach this situation without sounding like a bitch?

Pressured Over Observable Performance

1. You didn't do anything wrong when you brought it up, POOP, and he didn't do anything wrong when he got excited about the possibility of having his fantasy realized.

2. Yes. However excited your fiancé was about finally realizing his watch-my-girl-take-a-shit fantasy, he shouldn't have pressured you to perform once it became clear that it wasn't gonna happen. (And he shouldn't encourage you to smoke cigarettes; those things will kill you.) Shitting in front of someone — and here's hoping that's as far as his interest in poop goes — isn't easy, POOP, and badgering you won't help. Your fiancé, if he knows what's good for him, will hang back, let you set the pace, and thank his lucky fucking stars that he found someone who is willing to even try and will get there eventually.

3. "I know you're excited, honey, and it excites me to see you so excited. But dial it back a bit, okay? Next time I feel like I can give it a try, I will definitely let you know. But all of this pressure is making me feel constipated. And you don't want that, right?"

I'm an eighteen-year-old male. After three years of silence, my ex-girlfriend texted me out of the blue. She was my first love, and part of my heart still aches for her. I feel like the smart thing to do is to stop talking to her right now, but my heart says if I keep at it, I might be able to win her back. Most of her messages sound flirtatious, but it could just be me being optimistic. She even said, "I don't think of you as more than a friend. But I would be open to a relationship if I started having feelings for you again." Is this a lost cause? Or do I need to give it more time and see how it develops?

Love And Memories Enflamed

Forgive me, LAME, for what I'm about to type.

You're being used. Your ex-girlfriend sent that out-of-the-blue text because she wanted to feel wanted. Maybe she got dumped recently, or maybe she's in the midst of a dry spell, or maybe she's just selfish and cruel. But all she's after here — most likely — are the ego boosts your texts provide. And to keep those boosts coming, LAME, she's dangling a little false hope in front of you. She told you the truth so she wouldn't have to admit to herself that she's a manipulative liar (she only thinks of you as a friend) and then tacked on some meaningless, impossible-to-disprove crap (a relationship might be possible if she starts to have feelings for you again) to keep you textin'.

You dated her three years ago ... when you were fifteen. You're not in love with her, LAME, you're in love with the way she made you feel. There are other girls out there who can make you feel that way. Go find one.

I'm a 35-year-old GGG married male with a 33-year-old not-so-GGG wife. We've been together seventeen years and married four months. She was a virgin when we met and she's never been too sexual a person. I am a very sexual person, but she kept me satisfied with oral, dress-up, sex in different places — things like that. Things really started to fall off sexually around our tenth year together. When I mentioned it, she said that she felt I was never going to marry her, so why should she give me 100 percent? Five years later, I gave her the big wedding she wanted. I actually enjoy being married. Now here's my dilemma: She won't do anything besides traditional sex — and only when she's awake enough to actually have sex, and I always have to initiate. When I mention things like oral or toys or masturbation, she says she feels uncomfortable doing things like that. If she would have told me this before, my decision to get married might have been different. I don't want her to do anything that makes her feel uncomfortable or degraded. But in my opinion, what I'm asking for is not "kinky," certainly when compared to some of the things I could be into.

We've had this discussion consistently throughout our short marriage, with no sign of her even trying. Am I doomed to a bad marriage, or is there something I can do? Because talking ain't working. I feel she lied to me to get me to marry her, and now I don't know what to do. Any advice is appreciated.

Lots Of Sexual Tension

All your options are bad, LOST.

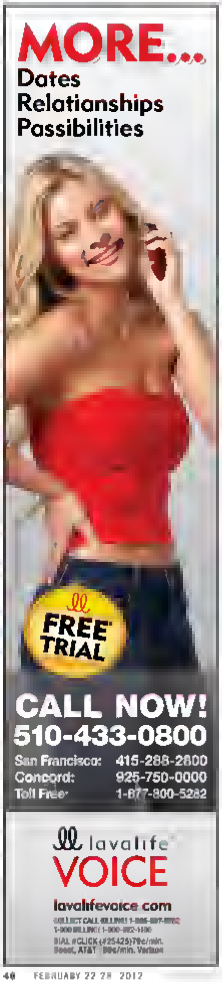
Stay married, stay faithful, and stew in your own frustration and resentment until you die. Stay married, cheat with cause, and hope you don't get caught. Inform your spouse that you're not going to ask her to do things she's not comfortable with, but you're also not going to ask for her permission to do those things with other women, and be cast as the villain when she files for divorce, or initiate the divorce yourself. Find a new partner, and make sure your new partner both enjoys sex and enjoys the kinds of sex you do before you marry her. (Hint: If she likes sex, and likes the stuff you like, she'll want to do that stuff whether you're married to her or not.)

Sorry, LOST, but that's all I got.

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at TheStranger.com/savage.

mail@savagelove.net

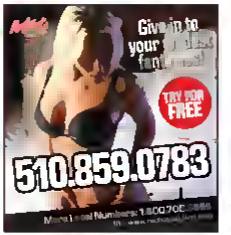
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 651257CA Loan No. 0698164498 Title Order No. 857561 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 05-30-2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 03-07-2012 at 12:30 PM, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded 06-08-2006, Book N/A, Page N/A, Instrument 2006219946, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of ALAMEDA County, California, executed by: ROSELLE VIRAYA, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN, as Trustor, LONG BEACH MORTGAGE COMPANY, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Sale will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to the Deed of Trust. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Place of Sale: THE FALLON STREET ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1225 FALLON STREET, OAKLAND, CA Legal Description: PARCEL ONE: CONDOMINIUM UNIT 34 OF LOT 8 OF TRACT MAP 7661 FILED SEPTEMBER 25, 2002, IN BOOK 267 OF MAPS, PAGES 1 THROUGH 20, INCLUSIVE, AND AS AMENDED BY CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION RECORDED JULY 8, 2004, SERIES NO. 2004-298575, OFFICIAL RECORDS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY, AS SUCH UNIT IS SHOWN ON THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN ("PLAN") ATTACHED AS AN EXHIBIT TO THE BAY STREET CONDOMINIUMS (COMMONLY KNOWN AS "BAY STREET ONE") ENABLING DECLARATION ESTABLISHING A PLAN FOR CONDOMINIUM OWNERSHIP ("DECLARATION") RECORDED SEPTEMBER 14, 2005, SERIES NO. 2005-394359 OFFICIAL RECORDS AND ANY AMENDMENTS AND/OR ANNEXATIONS RECORDED PURSUANT THERETO. PARCEL TWO: AN UNDIVIDED 1/77TH INTEREST AS TENANT IN COMMON IN AND TO THE UNDIVIDED INTEREST COMMON AREA LYING WITHIN SAID LOT 8 OF TRACT MAP 7661, AS SHOWN ON THE PLAN AND DEFINED IN THE DECLARATION. EXCEPTING AND RESERVING THEREFROM THE FOLLOWING: A) ALL CONDOMINIUM UNITS SHOWN ON THE PLAN AND DESCRIBED IN THE DECLARATION; B) EXCLUSIVE USE COMMON AREAS FOR POSSESSION, USE AND ENJOYMENT OF THOSE AREAS DESIGNATED ON THE PLAN AND DEFINED IN THE DECLARATION; C) NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENTS FOR USE, ENJOYMENT, INGRESS, EGRESS AND SUPPORT IN AND TO THE COMMON AREA AS SHOWN ON THE PLAN AND DESCRIBED IN THE DECLARATION; D) ALL EASEMENTS AS DEFINED IN THE DECLARATION; E) ASSOCIATION COMMON AREA AS SHOWN ON THE PLAN AND DEFINED IN THE DECLARATION; F) EXCEPTING THEREFROM ALL MINERALS AND ALL MINERAL RIGHTS OF EVERY KIND AND CHARACTER NOW KNOWN TO EXIST OR HEREAFTER DISCOVERED UNDERLYING THE PROPERTY, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITING THE GENERALITY OF THE FOREGOING OIL AND GAS AND RIGHTS THERETO, TOGETHER WITH THE SOLE, EXCLUSIVE AND PERPETUAL RIGHT TO EXPLORE FOR, REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF SAID MINERALS BY ANY MEANS OR METHODS SUITABLE TO GRANTOR, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, BUT WITHOUT ENTERING UPON OR USING THE SURFACE OF THE PROPERTY, AND IN SUCH MANNER AS NOT TO DAMAGE THE SURFACE OF THE PROPERTY OR TO INTERFERE WITH THE USE THEREOF BY GRANTEE, ITS SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS, PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT GRANTOR, ITS SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS, WITHOUT THE PRIOR WRITTEN PERMISSION OF GRANTEE, ITS SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS SHALL NOT CONDUCT ANY MINING ACTIVITIES OF WHATSOEVER NATURE ABOVE A PLANE FIVE HUNDRED FEET (500) BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE PROPERTY, AS RESERVED BY UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY, A DELAWARE CORPORATION (FORMERLY KNOWN AS SOUTHERN PACIFIC TRANSPORTATION COMPANY, A DELAWARE CORPORATION) IN THE QUITCLAIM DEED RECORDED DECEMBER 31, 2001, SERIES NO. 2001-507834, OFFICIAL RECORDS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY. PARCEL THREE: NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENTS FOR USE, ENJOYMENT, INGRESS, EGRESS AND SUPPORT IN AND TO THE COMMON AREA AS SHOWN ON THE PLAN AND DESCRIBED IN THE DECLARATION, FOR THE BENEFIT OF PARCEL ONE HEREINABOVE. PARCEL FOUR: EXCLUSIVE USE EASEMENTS, AS SHOWN ON THE PLAN AND DESCRIBED IN THE DECLARATION, APPURTENANT TO PARCEL ONE HEREINABOVE, FOR THE POSSESSION, USE AND ENJOYMENT OF: (A) DECK D-6/A (B) BALCONY B-14 (C) PARKING P-35 AND P-36. PARCEL FIVE: EASEMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL WIRES, SEWER LINES AND OTHER PIPES AND UTILITIES EQUIPMENT, ELEVATOR AND STAIRWAY LOBBY PURPOSES, ON, OVER, ACROSS AND THROUGH PORTIONS OF LOTS 1, 5, 7, 9 AND 13 OF TRACT MAP 7661, IN THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE, COUNTY OF ALAMEDA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AS PER SAID DESCRIBED TRACT MAP 7661 RECORDED SEPTEMBER 25, 2002, IN BOOK 267 OF MAPS, PAGES 1 THROUGH 20, IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAID COUNTY, AND AS DESCRIBED IN THAT CERTAIN DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND EASEMENTS AND AMENDMENT OF DECLARATION OF RECIPROCAL EASEMENTS, SERIES NO. 2002-429895, RECORDED OCTOBER 15, 2002, AS SERIES NO. 2002-465643, OFFICIAL RECORDS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY. PARCEL SIX: NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENTS FOR STORM DRAIN, SANITARY SEWER AND OTHER USES AND PURPOSES, ON, OVER, ACROSS AND THROUGH PORTIONS OF TRACT MAP 7661 RECORDED SEPTEMBER 25, 2002, IN BOOK 267 OF MAPS, PAGES 1 THROUGH 20, IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, DESIGNATED THEREON AS "PRIVATE STORM DRAIN EASEMENT RESERVATION" AND "PRIVATE SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT RESERVATION" AND AS DESCRIBED IN THAT CERTAIN DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND EASEMENTS AND AMENDMENT OF DECLARATION OF RECIPROCAL EASEMENTS, SERIES NO. 2002-429895, RECORDED OCTOBER 15, 2002, AS SERIES NO. 2002-465643. PARCEL SEVEN: NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENTS FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS AND OTHER USES AND PURPOSES OVER, ACROSS AND THROUGH PORTIONS OF TRACT MAP 7661 RECORDED SEPTEMBER 25, 2002, IN BOOK 267 OF MAPS, PAGES 1 THROUGH 20, IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF ALAMEDA COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DESIGNATED THEREON AS "PRIVATE STREET" "CHRISTIE AVENUE" "BAY STREET" "ENTRY STREET TO BE NAMED SUBJECT TO MEMORIALIZATION PROCESS" AND "PRIVATE INGRESS-EGRESS EASEMENT RESERVATION" AND AS DESCRIBED IN THAT CERTAIN DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND EASEMENTS AND AMENDMENT OF DECLARATION OF RECIPROCAL EASEMENT SERIES NO. 2002-429895 RECORDED OCTOBER 15, 2002 AS SERIES NO. 2002-465643. PARCEL EIGHT: A NON-EXCLUSIVE EMERGENCY EXITING EASEMENT PURSUANT TO THAT CERTAIN INSTRUMENT ENTITLED "EASEMENT AGREEMENT" BY AND BETWEEN IKEA PROPERTY, INC., A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY AND THE EMERYVILLE SOUTH BAYFRONT REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT PARTNERSHIP FOR THE TERMS AND UPON THE TERMS, COVENANTS AND CONDITIONS THEREIN PROVIDED, DATED AUGUST 4, 2000 AND RECORDED MAY 15, 2002, SERIES NO. 2002-[illegible] OFFICIAL RECORDS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY. PARCEL NINE: A NON-EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO TRANSFORMERS EASEMENT PURSUANT TO THAT CERTAIN INSTRUMENT ENTITLED "EASEMENT AGREEMENT" BY AND BETWEEN IKEA PROPERTY, INC., A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY AND THE EMERYVILLE SOUTH BAYFRONT REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT PARTNERSHIP FOR THE TERMS AND UPON THE TERMS, COVENANTS AND CONDITIONS THEREIN PROVIDED, DATED AUGUST 4, 2000 AND RECORDED MAY 15, 2002, SERIES NO. 2002-[illegible] OFFICIAL RECORDS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY. Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $[illegible] (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: 1541 [illegible] LN EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 APN Number: 049-1555-034-00 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". In compliance with California Civil Code 2923.5, the mortgagee, trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent declares: that it has contacted the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure; or that it has made efforts to contact the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure by one of the following methods: by telephone; by United States mail; either 1st class or certified; by overnight delivery; by personal delivery; by e-mail; by face to face meeting. DATE: [illegible] CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY, as Trustee REGINA CANTRELL, ASSISTANT SECRETARY CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. California Reconveyance Company 9200 Oakdale Avenue Mail Stop: CA2-4379 Chatsworth, CA 91311 800-892-6902 For Sales Information: (714) 730-2727 or www.[illegible].com (714) 573-1965 or www.priorityposting.com ASAP# [illegible] 02/15/2012, 02/22/2012, 02/29/2012

















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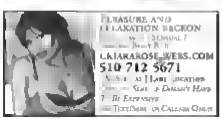
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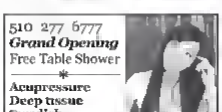














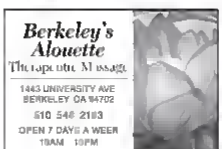




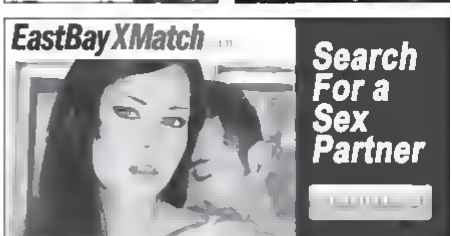


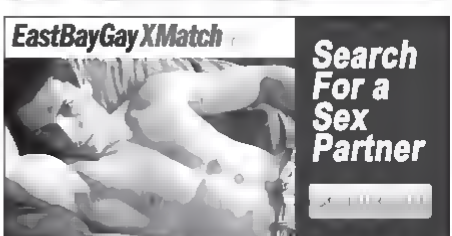












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